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 "a superb album...you would be a crazy fool not to check it out."-Maverick



MAVERICK

CD REVIEWS - THE NEW RELEASES

Kim Beggs
BLUE BONES
 Black Hen Music BHMCD64
 ★★★★★



'A voice as cool and as refreshing as the Yukon river' delivers songwriting of the highest order

Kim Beggs is an acclaimed Canadian artist who has already released two critically acclaimed albums. Born in Quebec but raised in the mining towns of North Ontario she finally arrived in the Yukon in 1991 but it was nearly ten years of pay the rent jobs (swinging a hammer according to her bio) before she started singing her own songs. Her 2006 album WANDERER'S PEAN earned her a couple of Canadian Music Award nominations and she was asked to represent her home country at the Canada Day celebrations in Trafalgar Square.

Being the 'hard' third album BLUE BONES carries a lot of responsibility. Fortunately for Kim, I think this one could be the breakthrough for her. Containing nine of her own compositions and four covers as diverse as Dylan's *I'll Be Your Baby Tonight* and Patty Griffin's *Trapeze* it is her own songs that shine out for me. With a voice as cool and as refreshing as the Yukon river country she hails from—think Nanci Griffith with a sprinkling of Iris DeMent—Kim covers a variety of themes that matter to her. The opener *Honey And Crumbs* is a delightful song with a beauty that masks the heartaches of leaving home to go on the road. *Mama's Dress* a sad refrain about a woman lost on the streets hiding in the world that only she sees in her head and *Firewater Bones* dedicated to her late brother who was born with a Foetal Alcohol disorder. Supported by the sympathetic backing of Steve Dawson on various guitars, John Raham (drums), Keith Lowe (bass) and Chris Gestrin (keyboards) with some superb vocal support on harmony from, amongst others, Laurie Lewis and Gurf Morlix, Kim works her way confidently and beautifully through some fine songs. This album also contains the only song with yodelling to date that I like (too much Frank Ifield as a child being the reason for my allergy to this artform!) *Cant Drive Slow Yodel* is an amusing take on heading home too fast. I honestly recommend people give BLUE BONES a listen, they will not be disappointed—I wasn't. **John Jobling**
www.kimbeggs.com

THREE MILE STONE

The exciting debut CD from the San Francisco-based Irish trio, produced by John Doyle.

"Three Mile Stone members...play Irish Traditional Music with the respect and love that it deserves. They've created a work of art. I love this stuff." — Billy McComiskey

"Some of the best mandolin playing in Irish music." — Dennis Cahill

"As purveyors of Irish music go, Three Mile Stone are indisputably in the top bracket, and you're seriously unlikely to come across a much more elegantly persuasive and genuinely uplifting small-ensemble record than their eponymous debut." —The Living Tradition magazine



Available at threemilestonemusic.com

Kim Beggs



Bold, brilliant, dark and sincere, with an instantly recognizable voice that blends sweetness and grit.



"A voice as cool and as refreshing as the Yukon river" delivers songwriting of the highest order" ★★★★★ **Maverick Magazine** (this issue)

"Blue Bones is a collection of thought provoking commentaries (Mama's Dress,) bittersweet love songs (Maiden Heart), and well chosen covers... Its an evocative and impressive set" **R2 Magazine**

"she scuffs up the dirt as (in song) she hits the 'bottle' blues in fabulous fashion... her music and ability as a songwriter draw comparisons to Mary Gauthier. Only here there is a considerably more melodic feel to go with the pain obtained by the latter" **Americana UK**

Blue Bones has been released in Europe, Canada, the USA.

For more information visit:

www.kimbeggs.com

for its compelling way with words, fabulous creation of atmosphere and tension, and the way Luan really pushes her vocal abilities—this song shines through. *Ain't No Temptin' Me* is another darker track, really exploring this jazz/blues vibe that suits Luan's vocals through and through. Overall this heady mix of styles with Luan's sultry vocals create something new, and embraces a darkness that is all around us at the moment, but doing so in a way that naturally exhibits what everyone has been thinking about. A record for the times, I hope that Luan's abilities can next time be focused much more on the narrative and being more cryptic with her style, to adopt influences whilst still carving her own sound. **Laura Bethell**
www.luanparle.com

Liam Dullaghan
MAKING HISTORY
 Independent
 ★★★★★☆

Actually a really interesting album

This mellow and mild mannered singer-songwriter really pulls out some exciting and unexpected songs, making this twelve track collection really stand out from the rest. MAKING HISTORY is Liam Dullaghan's solo debut following work as part of the band the Havenots. The opening track *Radio Verona*, is a romanticised acoustic tune, with a focus on love. With some interesting strings and guitars and very little in the way of percussion, it's a soft and delicate song. *What If We Win* follows this track and instantly holds appeal, for its country-rock vibe and his full-bodied and dramatic vocals that capture the Jason Mraz and Jack Johnson male vocal sound. This track really gives hope to the album for its variety and his ability to really pick up pace and manage a much heartier track without losing the passion and vibrancy. *New Barcelona* really brings in the country twang, something that he's definitely found embracing throughout the record, and the songs start to mellow out in the centre with tracks like *Ribbons & Shreds*, while *Paradise Beach* holds a rock undertone with the heavy rhythm section and some inspirational guitar work. *I'm Just Fucked Without You* is a really great track and something that I can imagine would be quite the single on the record for it's hooks and ability to really be enjoyed by those teenage angst admirers. However, the use of the language is questionable I guess and so long as you're not offended by that kind of language, it's thoroughly enjoyable. *Rotten Apples* has a captivating story line that I have really fallen in love with alongside his play with words and songwriting abilities.



HARRY MANX
ISLE of MANX
 The DESERT ISLAND COLLECTION
 Fifteen essential Manx tunes in one convenient package, from his first East-West fusion album "Dog My Cat" (2001) to the Juno nominated "Bread and Buddha" (2009).
www.harrymanx.com

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