

CD Reviews

The Good, The Bad & The Ugly.

New Releases & Re-Issues

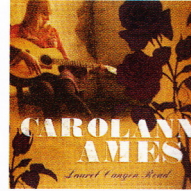
Carolann Ames

**LAUREL
CANYON ROAD**

Self-released CA2012

★★★★

*Sensitive and lyrical
country-folk songs
of quality*



Carolann Ames is one of those rare talents that though you didn't know her name or what to expect, as soon as this disc starts you straighten up and listen a lot closer to the music coming out of the speakers, because it is good, real good, and goes directly to your heart. The Texas-born, California-based singer-songwriter has a couple of previous albums to her name, but this is the first one to have reached me and I'm mighty glad it did. Apart from the closing *Love Is A Rose*, all of these songs have been written by Ames, some with members of her band, who also provide the sensitive and inspired accompaniment. Steve Peavey (acoustic guitar, mandolin, backing vocals). Melissa Harvey (fiddle) and Ken Dow (bass, backing vocals) are augmented by Dave Curtis (piano, organ), Dennis Caplinger (banjo), Rick Schmidt (pedal steel) and drummer Rob Hooper.

Ames takes her roots of living in the country and artistically writes some thought provoking lyrics as you can hear on the song, *Laurel Canyon Road*. Most of these songs are tales of people and places real and imagined, like the sad teenage girl who lost her soldier boyfriend in *Steel Rose*. Even when dealing with romantic entanglements as in *Not Sorry Anymore*, there is a lyrical finesse that's lacking in so many other break-up songs. I just loved *Everybody's Somebody In A Honky Tonk*, a song of great perception and truth. If you are looking for something that is fresh and original, then listen to the delectable country-folk songs on this outstanding album ... mark my words, you will want to hear more from Carolann Ames after you hear this latest collection. **Alan Cackett**

www.carolannames.com