

CD Reviews

Carolann Ames

Laurel Canyon Road



Label: Carolann Ames

Genre: Roots/Americana Country

Rating: * * * *

The foundation of California singer/songwriter Carolann Ames' music is fate, feeling and family. The opening cut, "Bed of Roses," paints a picture of a life full of happiness, love and peace. If Carolann starts the set on an optimistic note, her pop-smart Americana music with country flavorings also paints the canvas with different shades of rose. Without much tempo change from the opener, Ames' title cut is a serenade that evokes the whispers, cries and moans in the "dynamited mountains" of North Carolina's strip mine country. Another shade of rose colors "Back to Santa Rosa," a song that begins under the trees, among rose petals, by a field of lavender. Ames ultimately concludes that preoccupation with happenstance is not always a good thing while pursuing love. Feelings of first love, hope, desire, resilience and perseverance are conveyed in "Sugar Creek" and "Steel Rose," a couple songs that best display Ames' skill as a storyteller with her music. She takes a different approach to paint the town red with "Everybody's Somebody in a Honky Tonk."

The penultimate number, "Blessed is the Love that Abides," recognizes her lover as "the color of the day." Then, the album closes with the only cover "Love is a Rose," made famous by Linda Rondstadt and always a nice pick-me-up with a hoedown flavor. With a well-arranged musical combination of instrumentation and imagery, Carolann Ames passionately sings with (and about) awareness, security and delight. It's moving music that is good for the heart. (Joe Ross, Roots Music Report)

Reviewed By: Joe Ross

March 2012