

## **PRESS AND RADIO REVIEWS 2004**



### **VARIOUS – PIERRE’S PLASTIC DREAM (MSMCD101)**

“... a rare treat ... a must for collectors of rare sixties pop or anyone who feels that the British invasion just wasn’t invasive enough!” **CD REVIEWS**

“More Verveful than the Verve, more refreshing than Oasis.” **ROCK N’ REEL**

“... reveals an *auteur* with few peers. Pierre Tubbs’ previously unacknowledged talent is finally getting its proper due.” **RECORD COLLECTOR**



### **STEVE ASHLEY - THE TEST OF TIME (MSMCD102)**

: “... confirms that we are not awash with sufficient telling songwriters for this man’s work to be forgotten.” **fROOTS**

“... his reputation among performers and critics is an enviable one. This is an excellent introduction to an often neglected artist.” **ROCK ‘N REEL**

“... songs and vocal performances of breathtaking artistry, an English approach to music and words which delves to the roots of the Tradition, while being both innovatory and exciting ...”  
**THE LIVING TRADITION**

“A compilation spanning the whole recording career of this London singer-songwriter. Never less than diverting...” **Q MAGAZINE**

“... should be enough to clue you into Steve Ashley’s brilliance ... an exquisite package. This deeply impressive record is not unlike a pot of gold found at the end of the rainbow.”  
**FOLK ON TAP**



### **OLLIE HALSALL – CAVES (MSMCD103)**

“A valuable addition to the discography of a singular and much-missed talent.” **RECORD COLLECTOR**

“A gem.” **GOLDMINE**

“...a versatile and professional talent. Caves testifies to that there was more to the musical terrain in the late 70s than just punks plus a few jurassic supergroups for easy baiting.”

**ROCK 'N REEL**



**STEVE ASHLEY - STROLL ON REVISITED (MSMCD104)**

“I hope Steve has a revival as happened with Nick Drake ... he deserves an equally esteemed place in your collection.” **PENGUIN EGGS**

“... the passing of time has confirmed two things about Steve Ashley’s debut. First, it is up there with ‘*Leige & Leif*’, the first Steeleye album, Christy Moore’s ‘*Prosperous*’ and suchlike, a masterpiece of its kind; secondly, it is still too much of a best-kept secret.” **MOJO**

“Much was made at the time of the way the whole album tapped into the huge sweeping cycle of the English seasons, and the new insert essay by Karl Dallas revisits this theme, calling the album ‘life-changing’. It’s easy to see why.” **LIVING TRADITION**

“... a minor classic.” **RECORD COLLECTOR**

“... Songs this gentle and lovely retain their beauty ... another example of the rich traditional/folk heritage in the British Isles. Timeless music.” **DIRTY LINEN**

“... has taken on the status of a minor classic over the years and with this reissue marking its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it’s not hard to see why.” **RECORD COLLECTOR**

“Stroll On is about as perfect a slice of English folk/folk-rock as there is. The timeless melodies are unforgettable as is the warm friendliness of Ashley’s singing.” **SING OUT!**



**KEVIN AYERS & THE WIZARDS OF TWIDDLY – TURN THE LGHTS DOWN! (MSMCD105)**

“... rich presentations of classics ... if you missed the gigs here is your chance to catch up.” **RECORD COLLECTOR**

“... a good night both for the committed and the curious” **Q MAGAZINE**

“There are not that many Ayers live recordings available – file this alongside the best.” **GOLDMINE**



**VARIOUS – PEOPLE ON THE HIGHWAY (A BERT JANSCH ENCOMIUM) (MSMCD106)**

“... Bert himself must be reassured that the consistently high levels of performance here tell a mighty story.” **Q MAGAZINE**

"Tribute albums have the potential to be indulgent quests of getting as many big names on to one album as possible, very often, to the detriment of the material. But in this case, Bert Jansch's 35 years in the music business have been lovingly celebrated in this heartfelt and recommended collection." **CUE & REVIEW**

"... never less than entertaining and grows on you with successive listens. It's a good introduction to the work of a true original and a sound way to use up those stray gift vouchers!" **LEISURE MAGAZINE**

"... the highlights make this double CD well worth the effort. Current faves include Duffy Power's husky *I Am Lonely*, Roy Harper's beautifully resigned *Needle Of Death* and, perhaps bravest of all, a shattering rendition of *Blackwater Side* from Kelly Joe Phelps." **GUITAR MAGAZINE**

"... an erratic but intriguing tribute." **MOJO**

"... a vast range of disciples and devotees pay homage across 26 tracks. All songs seem strangely appropriate (e.g. Al Stewart with *Soho*) which suggests that the artists have given some thought to their choices and have mostly delivered outstanding, well-crafted interpretations." **TOP MAGAZINE**

"... featuring some of the very best musicians to be found in any generation ... a worthy tribute: and a splendid showcase for all who contributed." **SONGBOOK**

"Some great music bristles throughout this album – beautifully executed, seductive, and more than a little chilling." **IRISH POST NEWSPAPER**

"... handsomely packaged, highly overdue and thoroughly intoxicating." **EXCITE**

"... an impressive package. As a snapshot of Bert's songwriting abilities, it's practically flawless." **FOLK ON TAP**

"There many reasons for buying this record: fine music, a new perspective on Bert Jansch's work ... whatever your reason, buy it." **ROCK N' REEL**

"... a wondrous 2-disc set." **NETRHYTHMS**

"... a labour of love. A treat" **LIVING TRADITION**

"... there are enough gems on this 2CD set to make it a worthwhile acquisition." **PENGUIN EGGS**

"The variety and quality of the performances (and the very detailed liner notes) make this album a worthy tribute to a legend." **THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY**

".. the consistently high levels of performance here tell a mighty story." **Q MAGAZINE**

"... well worth the effort." **GUITAR MAGAZINE**



#### **ROD CLEMENTS – STAMPING GROUND (MSMCD107)**

"Superb ... very rootsy. It's got a great feel." **MIKE HARDING, BBC RADIO 2**

"... Clements was arguably the most accomplished musician in the group (Lindisfarne), as well as being no mean songwriter ... a very worthwhile album ... recommended." **RECORD BUYER**

"The writing is uniformly strong and many songs are real standouts ... the musicianship throughout the album is of an extremely high standard. A quality album indeed, no mistake."  
**ROCK 'N REEL**

"Stamping Ground is an old school album that says it all in 40 minutes. Stellar support is provided throughout ... but it's Clements who remains firmly centre-stage." **FOLK ON TAP**

"Stands up well to repeated listening. Go get it!" **PENGUIN EGGS**

"Go buy and hear for yourself." **COUNTRY MUSIC INTERNATIONAL**

"... a joy from beginning to end." **LIVING TRADITION**

"The writings uniformly strong and many songs are real standouts. A quality album ..."  
**TRADITIONAL MUSIC MAKER**

"... a solid collection of original songs." **DIRTY LINEN**

"This is a really excellent album...highly recommended." **COUNTRY MUSIC PEOPLE**

"Clements has really flowered of late ... a fascinating mosaic which makes a more than satisfying whole." **fROOTS**



#### **STEVE TILSTON – LIFE BY MISADVENTURE (MSMCD108)**

"... a good retrospective starting point." **WONDROUS STORIES**

"... pensive, literate, perceptive." **DIRTY LINEN**

"Not burning out or fading away, the romanticism of his early work has evolved into a combination of classic folk-baroque stylings and keenly-observed social realism lurking beneath the kind of literate, oblique lyricism that few people seem willing or able to write these days. This gem is his most intoxicating single work." **MOJO**

"... one of his best. If you've not yet discovered this magnificent singer-songwriter/guitarist then you could do far worse than start with life By Misadventure." **fROOTS**

"... the product of an artist at the top of his game ... a work that demands and repays repeated listening. A superb record." **LIVING TRADITION**



#### **SONJA KRISTINA – SONGS FROM THE ACID FOLK (MSMCD109)**

"... sees the former Curved Air frontwoman in fine vocal form." **RECORD BUYER \* MUSIC COLLECTOR**

"... retains a freshness of spirit and accessibility ..." **FOLK ON TAP**



**THE FAMOUS JUG BAND – O FOR SUMMER (MSMCD110)**

“More power to people who make albums like this one!”

**RECORD BUYER & MUSIC COLLECTOR**

“... some high quality folk music with some interesting sounds.” **WONDROUS STORIES**

“... musicians with nothing to prove, enjoying eachother’s company and producing music that defies the straightjacket of modern fashion and perhaps in a way harkens back to another era.” **FOLK ON TAP**

“... an unexpected delight ... works as a unified whole, a charmer from end to end. O For Summer is an unqualified delight.” **SING OUT!**

“... an acoustic sound and dreamy lyrics that evoke the Spirit of Folk Music Past.” **DIRTY LINEN**

“Quirky English pastoralists reunite after 30 years ... this captures their singular appeal.” **Q MAGAZINE**



**NIRVANA – ME & MY FRIEND (MSMCD111)**

No reviews yet.



**KEVIN AYERS – STILL LIFE WITH GUITAR (MSMCD112)**

“Truly sublime” **MAVERICK**

“... captures the afterglow of the summer of love and illustrates the tightrope between eccentricity and accessibility.” **JEWISH CHRONICLE**

“This is a super album – no problem!” **NETRHYTHMS**

“... the choice of material and quality of production make this a very worthwhile item.” **BURTON DAILY MAIL.**

“... the only man who can blend jazz, rock, country, folk – whatever you want – and make it sound good.” **WONDROUS STORIES**



**ELEANOR MCEVOY – YOLA (MSMSACD113)**

“Beautiful songs, beautifully sung” **HI FI +**

“This is surely Eleanor McEvoy's best album to date.” **HOT PRESS**

“Always mischievously infectious in construction and attractively honest in tone, the glorious simplicity of Yola feels like a homecoming in every sense ... a back-to-basics triumph ...”

**MOJO**

“Not since Janis Ian has a record navigated the emotional minefield with such surefooted steps, and that's praise indeed, Yola slips on like a favourite jumper - it should be come a classic if only because it's the first great new recording on super audio.” **HI FI SOUND**

“When you listen to Irish singer songwriter Eleanor McEvoy's new album Yola, the sound is so good you could be forgiven for thinking you've grown an extra pair of ears.”

**BIRMINGHAM POST**

“... the fourth album by this brilliant guitarist/singer/songwriter, McEvoy's best release to date”. **MIX MAGAZINE**



**LUMINOS – SEIZE THE DAY (MSMCD115)**

“Melodic progressive rock that focuses more on melody and song arrangement than over-indulgent displays of flash musicianship. And all the better it is for it. Overall, a fine debut full of memorable, well-played songs.”

**DPRP**

“Luminos's music far-reaching... sure to capture the ears of traditional proggies, hard-to-please melodic rockers, plus those into celtic and new age styles. An admirable effort ...”

**HEART OF THE ROCK**

“... way better than the opuses by hundreds of Marillion, IQ, etc wannabees.”

**PROGRESSOR**

“There's some potential here ... worth checking out.” **CLASSIC ROCK**

“... promises much for the future as the band undoubtedly has a lot of ability.”

**ROCK SOCIETY**

“Luminos music is wide-reaching ... an admirable effort.” **GLORY DAZE**

“... a strong debut.” **GET READY TO ROCK**

“Luminos have a good first step towards establishing their own place in the neo-prog pantheon.” **PROGRESSIVEMORLD**



**SONJA KRISTINA – CRI DE COEUR (MSMCD116)**

“... a lady of jazz and her voice is tailor-made for the genre ... one for dark and smoky room – and very intimate, too.” **ROCK SOCIETY**

“All too often songs such as these are sung because they have endured but Ms Kristina seems to give them a lyrical weight and meaning often forgotten – or ignored.”

**JAZZ REVIEW**



**DORRIS HENDERSON – HERE I GO AGAIN (MSMCD117)**

“...one of the most distinctive female singers. A really fine record ... this represents an exceptional comeback, a true ‘moment of magic’” **NETRHYTHMS**

“... a remarkable, swooping, growling voice ... and the accompaniments are superb.”  
**fROOTS Magazine**

“... off the beaten path, a melding of pop, jazz and folk creating a uniquely interesting sound.”  
**SING OUT!**



**STEVE ASHLEY – SPEEDY RETURN (MSMCD118)**

“It's good to see that Market Square is honouring its commitment to reissue the back catalogue of this underrated British singer-songwriter. The quality of the songs remains high ...” **FOLK NORTH WEST**

“... a perfect album for late night listening.” **EXPOSE**

“Sounding fresher than ever and lovingly wrapped in Robert Kirby's warm, beguiling orchestration, this observant, incisive album's return is a welcome one. A gem”  
**BBC RADIO 2**

“...this lovely little gem ... richly imbued with textures, gentle wisdom and a sparkle forever young.” **MOJO**

“True English roots rock” **fROOTS**

“Speedy Return still sounds majestic all these years later” **IRISH MUSIC**

“It bursts with joy and humanity transmitted by wonderful and innovative music. You owe it to yourself to own a copy” **TYKES NEWS**

“It's an intelligent use of the past to stay in time and tune with the present. Highly recommended” **FOLK ON TAP**

"Utterly charming and enjoyable, and still contemporary" **GREEN MAN REVIEW**

"A potent sense of continuity between the tradition and the present day" **NETRHYTHMS**

"A very welcome reissue ... although written nearly three decades ago, they still sound fresh, relevant and thought provoking" **RAMBLES**

"This is a wonderfully crafted set of songs...Welcome back? Not half." **FOLKWRITE**



**TIM ROSE – THE LONDON SESSIONS (MSMCD119)**

"... earns its place alongside the very best of Tim Rose." **THE BIRMINGHAM POST**

"On 12 tracks recorded over two decades Rose reminds us of some of the great music that is out there and shows us what a good performer can make any song new and exciting. I would recommend this record very highly." **FOLKING.COM**

"... moments that raise acoustic artistry to gratingly intense levels of immense power." **SONGBOOK**



**AL ATKINS – HEAVY THOUGHTS (MSMCD120)**

"... quite simply superb ... brimming throughout with superb brutal Metal" **WONDROUS STORIES**

"Massive study in 70s style hard rock. Awesome." **CHAOS REALM**

"Al proves with this record what a great musician, songwriter and singer he is." **MORE THAN MUSIC MAGAZINE**



**THE WOODS BAND – MUSIC FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF HELL (MSMCD123)**

"I may be going out on a bit of a limb here but occasionally you have to stand up and be counted. I reckon this CD is the best thing to come out of Ireland in quite a few years." **BBC RADIO 2**

"... this group manages to reference the illustrious past of its musical heritage while cultivating a sound that's fresh and new. The Woods Band deserves attention not just for having made a beautiful record but for having figured out how to stand so prominently out in front of the pack." **DIRTY LINEN**

"... attractive on first hearing –goes much deeper if you give it a chance." **SONGBOOK**

"An album that returns one of the most influential Irish musicians once again to the racks ... this comes with a hefty thumbs-up." **FROOTS**



**STEVE TILSTON – SUCH & SUCH (MSMCD124)**

"... his most ambitious recording to date ... he has drawn from a staggering range of sources and styles for the material, producing what is without doubt, his very best album."

**LIVING TRADITION**

"... when all's said and done, it's all a little but more than 'such and such' I fancy"

**TRADITIONAL MUSIC MAKER**

"... may be his most thoroughly-realised more lovingly detailed work yet." **CITY LIFE**

"Warm, adroit musicianship with a heart full of soul." **LIVING TRADITION**

"Another highly polished collection from Tilston." **fROOTS**

"... has to be a strong contender for folk album of 2003." **GET READY TO ROCK**

"Tilston is a composer and storyteller par excellence and a complete guitarist, whose decorative and technically superior fretwork makes him as impressive solo as with accompaniment. Soul food for those who appreciate quality words and music ... should help expedite Tilston's return down-under (Festival organisers please note, a full four years has elapsed since he last visited out shores). Album of the week..." **BARFLY**

"There are some artists that are just too good for this business. Buy this CD. You'll make yourself very happy." **SONGBOOK**

"You must buy this album, if you are a fan of folk, jazz, blues, country music. Basically, you must own this; it's in a different class." **FOLKING.COM**

"Such & Such is one more fine album from a thoughtful and creative musician."

**DIRTY LINEN**

"...an outstanding album from a musician of quality and integrity." **NETRHYTHMS**

"... a wonderful combination of a great voice matched by equally impressive instrumental work blended with just-right production. This charming CD will appeal to a broad range of listeners." **SING OUT!**



**HEADWAITER – HEADWAITER (MSMCD125)**

"... cross Euro/American rock with a dark sound ... a very unusual and different sound."

**WONDROUS STORIES**

"Headwaiter have come up with a modern singer/songwriter album of classy guitar based rock in the vein of Warren Zevon. Once these songs are under your skin, you never tire of them."

**BT PULS**

“An album that sounds like it was recorded in an exotic bar, long after closing time. Full of deep guitar and dark atmosphere.” **BERGENSAVISEN**

“A great album ... overturns the theory that you must be an unconfident, good looking 20-year old, willing to do whatever to break out from a boring life as a dish washer or waitress, to become a popstar.” **GROOVE.NO**

“... this is pretty damn fine fare. It's late night rock dominated by deep throaty vocals - imagine some of Floyd/Roger Water's quieter moments with Nick Cave on vocals and you won't be wide of the mark. It's one of those albums that you keep reaching for but are never quite sure why. Definitely a 'grower' and one that gets further under your skin with each listen.” **GET READY TO ROCK**



#### **THE GREEN HOUSE BAND – MIRAGE (MSMCD126)**

“... enjoyable and technically excellent.” **SONGBOOK**

“... daring and unprepossessingly beautiful – a masterclass celebration of an era.” **MOJO**

“... one of the most ambitious folk recordings in a long time ... it's had not to be left won over by the charming intricacy and overwhelming musicianship of this essential record.”  
**GET RHYTHMZ**

“Pentangle meets Trees in a West End production of The Wicker Man.” **BBC RADIO 2**



#### **ELEANOR MCEVOY – ELEANOR MCEVOY (SPECIAL EDITION) MSMCD127**

“... contains more gems of great music and lyrics than a Kimberly diamond mine.”  
**RAMBLINGS**

“This timely release demonstrates that she is no one-song wonder. Songwriting of the very highest standards, a fine voice and arrangements which get the very best of everyone involved.” **SONGBOOK**

“In its original guise, this album went gold in Ireland and sold a quarter million copies worldwide. Suffice to say, the passing decade has failed to dim its lustre.” **HMV CHOICE**



#### **ELEANOR MCEVOY – EARLY HOURS (MSM51SACD128)**

“It would be a tragedy given the exquisite understated magnificence and warmth of these 42 minutes if all Eleanor McEvoy were remembered is “A Woman's Heart”. Eleanor's Dido-before-Dido voice and some of the best happy/sad songs she has ever written plus

deconstructed classics by Chuck Berry and Bert Jansch, this is her 'White Ladder', her 'Life For Rent'. A triumph." **MOJO**

"While many may be waiting for her to write another "Only A Woman's Heart" - this will do very nicely in the meantime." **RI-RA**

"If anyone produces a better album than Eleanor McEvoy's 'Early Hours' this year then I'll eat my hat, because this latest offering from the Irish singer/songwriter is as close to perfect as you will ever hear." **SOUTH LONDON GUARDIAN**

"The appeal of early hours lies in its basic folk-roots simplicity, nothing is allowed to get in the way of the songs. Like good food McEvoy's music requires no garnish." **MAVERICK**

"The quality of her vocals and the superb work of her sidemen (both elements enhanced by dual-layer hybrid surround/stereo SACD/CD production) makes *Early Hours* a rewarding if sometimes enervating listening experience." **RHYTHMS**

"With lyrics of her own compositions, some background and some lovely pictures this is a great package from a very accomplished writer and performer." **FOLKING.COM**

"... the key word here is *luxury* because that is the musical feeling that this album creates. Make no mistake, this is an outstanding piece of musicianship. From a songwriter and band at the peak of performance, this is a clever album because even if you don't share the songwriter's inspiration, the musicality is such that you will still find enjoyment in it. It is sparse yet rich, never flashy but always inventive, playing only the notes that are needed to capture the mood of the song. Released in multi-channel surround mix, it sounds fab even on a bog-standard stereo." **BBC RADIO 2**

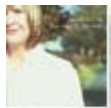
"There is nothing here to frighten off the average Radio 2 listener and in these crafted songs, much to attract. "You'll Hear Better Songs (Than This)," McEvoy declares in the Shakespeare - inspired opening track. True, perhaps. But these will do fine in the meantime." **THE INVERNESS COURIER**

"With lyrics of her own compositions, some background and some lovely pictures this is a great package from a very accomplished writer and performer." **IRISH MUSIC MAGAZINE**

"Never exactly a slouch in the songwriting stakes, she's surpassed herself here." **NETRHYTHMS**

"While Thea Gilmore gets all the attention, the similarly gifted Eleanor McEvoy has been busy honing a far-more affecting brand of singer-songwriterly femme-folk ... imbued with the beauty of Judie Tzuke and the wordplay of Suzanne Vega. That's a pantheon that McEvoy is eminently qualified to join, now is the time for it to happen." **LOGO MAGAZINE**

"One to give Katie Melua a run for her money." **QX MAGAZINE**



## **JANET HOLMES – THE ROAD TO THE WEST (MSMCD129)**

"This is a very fine album ... if you have tendencies toward Irish music, folk, bluegrass, or just enjoy hearing top-notch musicians having a good time, then investigate this." **GET READY TO ROCK! Online**