

Blues Bytes



I'm not sure how to classify the music found on **Diana Rein's** *Long Road* (Rude Mood Records). She's billed as "the six string siren" and she's more than just a blues artist. In fact, her voice is very reminiscent of a young Emmy Lou Harris on some of the dozen originals here, especially on the first cut, "Long Road." If I had to classify her music, I'd call it more blues-based with a touch of rock, alt-country and other styles mingling into the mix.

Rein plays all of the instruments on the CD (guitars, bass, EZDrummer), but I wouldn't have noticed it if I hadn't looked at the liner notes. It's a coherent mix that sounds like an entire band in the studio. Some of her better guitar work comes out on the urgent number "Green Light," one that could fit on both a blues and rock playlist, while "Rebel With A Cause" mixes in a bit of a soulful touch on her vocals. "The Real Thing" is another up-tempo number but this one sounding somewhat Bo Diddley-ish at times.

Rein also demonstrates her ability to handle a slow number with her plea "Don't Walk Away," with the appropriate amount of tortured vocals coming out ... " ... you see that I'm damaged and unworthy of love anymore, would you hold me tight and not keep score ..." She continues the plea with the more up-tempo "Come Back Home," but this time her voice is a little more demanding rather than pleading. I really like her guitar riffs on this number --- it's bluesier than previous cuts.

More strong blues guitar follows on the slower "Wicked," where Rein's voice takes on more of a rich and ethereal tone. Good mixing in the studio here. Where she previously sounded like Emmy Lou, now her voice reminds me more of Neko Case. That's also a good thing. By the end of this song I was saying "Wow!" at the strength of Rein's vocals. Closing the album is a blues instrumental, "Peace," that shows off Rein's guitar prowess.

Born in Romania and raised in Chicago, Rein now spends most of her time in southern California and has merged with the band The Papermoon Gypsies. I look forward to their first recorded collaboration and to see how Rein develops as both an artist and a songwriter. She's certainly got the potential for greatness.

--- Bill Mitchell

What's New

June 2016

<http://www.bluenight.com/BluesBytes/wn0616.html>