

**DIANA REIN**  
*Long Road*  
**Rude Mood Records**

With her second CD release Chicago-based singer Diana Rein turns up the heat with a session of 12 original songs. She's rock. She's country. And she's a

multi-instrumentalist who supplies the guitar, bass and drums tracks for her album. Sizzling electric guitar romps fade in and out while Rein sings strong enough to be heard all across the nation. Her country rock enthusiasm shares very little with blues, but she delivers lyrics with authority and tells a story each time out.

"The Real Thing" relies on its foot-tapping rhythm to get the message across. "Wicked" adds a heartbroken throb with its slow guitar enchantment before Rein follows up with a somber vocal delivery that runs close to blues. "Done Me Dirty" has the lyrics of a blues adventure but it's done up in hard rock fashion. "Come Back Home" has a lively drift while "Peace" closes the session with a slow and lovely instrumental ballad.

"Down Down 'Down" connects with the blues more so than any other selection as Rein allows a loping triple meter to provide foundation for her throw-back thoughts before making a sudden transition to head-banging forces that drive her message home.



**-- Jim Santella**