

SOUND ADVICE

THE CHAIN DEANA CARTER VANGUARD

Country Music seems to breed dynasties and DEANA CARTER is another example of this. Her father is FRED CARTER JNR, a renowned guitar sideman, record producer, record executive and studio owner. *The Chain* is both her tribute to her father and recognition of the musical continuity that permeates her career. She started her commercial career with a multi-platinum release over a decade ago titled *Did I Shave My Legs For This*. *The Chain* is only her fifth studio album, and she gives over the song selection here to those songs that her dad had significant input to. Opening with ROY ORBISON's *Crying*, she then moves into a number of duet performances with artists originally associated with the songs, so we have KRIS KRISTOFFERSON (*Help Me Make It Through The Night*), DOLLY PARTON (*Love Is Like A Butterfly*), JESSI COULTER (*I'm Not Lisa*), WILLIE NELSON (*On The Road Again*), GEORGE JONES (*He Thinks I Still Care*) and JOHN ANDERSON (*Swingin'*) all present and accounted for. *The Chain* also features stunning solo recordings of Deana performing such classics as *Lay Lady Lay*, *The Weight* and *Old Man*. SHOCK/VANGUARD 79831-2 RON ADSETT



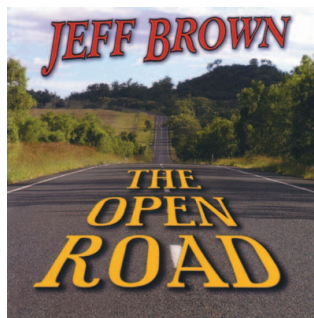
DUETS - FRIENDS & LEGENDS ANNE MURRAY MANHATTAN

I've been a big ANNE MURRAY fan from the start, way back to Snowbird days. She's always been able to sell a song with effortless ease, delivering the smoothest of love sentiments and the brightest of emotions. Here, unbelievably, is her 34th album, and she's brought along a few friends to help out on most of her big hits of the last four decades. Singing along on is, just to get it away to a good start. Country friends include MARTINA McBRIDE (*Danny's Song*) EMMYLOU HARRIS (*Another Pot O' Tea*), SHELBY LYNNE (*You Won't See Me*), K D LANG (*A Love Song*), and pop friends, CAROLE KING (*Time Won't Run Out On Me*), DUSTY SPRINGFIELD (*I Just Fall In Love Again*), OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN (*Cotton Jenny*) and more. The surprise package is another Canadian artist who joins in on the classic *You Needed Me* for the stand-out track on the album... SHANIA TWAIN! If like me, you've enjoyed the relaxed styling of Anne over the years, you'll find extra dimensions to these classics revisited under the production of PHIL RAMONE. EMI/MANHATTAN 3862782 RON ADSETT



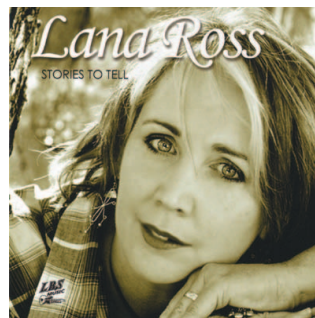
HERE AND NOW THE HARMONATORS INDEPENDENT

THE HARMONATORS are duo RAE MOODY and LIZ KINNINMONT, Australian Institute of Music trained vocalists who have left their city roots for love of country. From their promising EP debut in 2006 they, with producers MATT FELL (SARA STORER / JONAH'S ROAD) and MICHAEL CARPENTER, have just released their first full CD *Here And Now*. The vocals are rich and intense, with the full throated passion reminiscent of MARTINA McBRIDE. The debut single *Don't Come Back* is case in point; a feisty no-nonsense lyric, a fine hooky guitar riff and strong sustained vocals a la *McBride's Heart Trouble*. The musicianship is excellent; instrumentally complex but uncluttered. *If Love Ain't Crazy*, *Here And Now* and *I Think This Is It* are excellent tracks. *Girl Like Me* has a swampy Cajun backwoods feel. It is crossover country at its best - I get excited thinking of all the new country fans that will be lured from the 'Dark Side'. INDEPENDENT HM002 AVAILABLE FROM www.theharmonators.com DEBORAH MINTER



THE OPEN ROAD JEFF BROWN INDEPENDENT

Here's a 12-track collection of life on *The Open Road* told from behind the wheel by JEFF BROWN. Jeff's latest collects four of his previous recordings and adds seven new songs and a new version of *Poverty Liner* to complete this collection of trucking songs from some of our best writers. Of the new songs, it's the opener, *The Long Haul* from the words of ERNIE CONSTANCE with music by Jeff that stands out for me. Jeff adds KEITH JAMIESON's *Torn Between Two Worlds* to his previously recorded *Poverty Liner* and *Mate I'm Feeling Lucky*. Then there's songs from DEAN PERRETT, LES LAWSON, KELLY & MARION DIXON, TOM OLIVER, IAN QUINN and of course SLIM DUSTY keeping the flavour distinctly Australian. Recorded at Marc Lea's Regency Sound, as have been Jeff's last couple of albums, it displays that fine understanding between producer and singer that gets the most out of both. For heading down the highway, there is none better. ONE STOP COUNTRY/INDEPENDENT JB003 RON ADSETT



STORIES TO TELL LANA ROSS LBS MUSIC

It's been forty years and memories of the first time I ever heard TAMMY WYNETTE's classic *DIVORCE* have just been rekindled with the first playing of LANA ROSS' new CD *Stories To Tell*. The debut single *Heaven's Park* has that same poignant tear-choked delicacy as the great Wynette classic. Lana's vocals are so pretty, it is as if they dance across the music. Lana's self-penned sweet lyrics and gentle melodies are delightful. The production by LINDSAY BUTLER is equally graceful. Songs such as *Like Water*, *Gypsy Song*, *Curlews Cooeo* and *So It Begins Again* are a soothing balm to the ear. *Pioneering Days* harks back to an early year and *Crushing Time* recalls the excitement of cane-cutting season. Lana Ross' music is quite different from the common thread, much like gossamer is to homespun cotton. Although in no way 'Irish', this album will delight lovers of both Celtic and Aussie country music alike. LBS MUSIC LBS109CD DEBORAH MINTER

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