

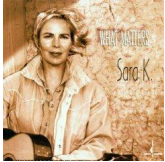
## Sara K. – What Matters (2001)

Written by bluelover

Friday, 11 September 2015 15:52 - Last Updated Sunday, 09 July 2017 22:26

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1 He Got You 2:42 2 Johnny's Garden 5:39 3 Bebe's Waltz 2:03 4 What Matters 6:38  
5 Because 3:58 6 Tierra Contenta 3:51 7 I Want You To Come In 4:24 8 Armor 4:46 9  
Whiter Shade Of Pale 5:59 10 Ivory Cage 3:34 11 Bebe's Wake 1:33 Sara K. - 4 String  
Guitar, Vocals Bruce Dunlap - Acoustic Guitar, Dobro Paul Socolow - Acoustic Bass Todd  
Turkishler - Drums, Percussion Gil Goldstein - Accordion, Bass Accordion

A great CD from an artist whose songwriting, like her voice, has deepened in tone and power. "He's Got You" treads the old ground of romance and obsession, jazzy and catchy; "What Matters" reflects fearlessly on mortality and aging; "Tierra Contenta" is the artist's first political piece, a primal invocation against thoughtless environmental damage. "Because" and "I Want You To Come In" recapture the seductive innocence and tenderness of Sara K.'s earliest recordings: "Past the hue Past the pictures upon the wall Windows still say it all Because your love feels like heaven to me." Sara covers "Whiter Shade Of Pale" and "Johnny's Garden." And there's a song, an instrumental waltz and another tune for the writer's dog, Bebe (1988-1999).  
---cdbaby.com

I've been watching this artist a few years. I was interested in a couple of recordings I'd run into on the Chesky label, because of the style she was playing. I'm kind of amazed by the relatively tiny number of jazzy singer songwriters out there, when so many play folk, blues, or country. It's actually a tricky area for those of us that do like to write and play jazzier material. Sometimes it's not folksy enough for the folk crowd, and it's not usually jazz to the jazz crowd. Of course, if it's jazzy pop, that's okay--Sade, Rickie Lee, Norah Jones. (That's right, they all happen to be beautiful women--some would call that a pop prerequisite. Sara K. is a very winsome person as well, for the record.) But lately I hear a few more records in this sub-genre (call it folk jazz) and

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believe that we need more of it, and it seems to be finding an audience. Erika Lockett is a fine artist in this category, and I hear Louise Taylor's new CD will also be on the jazzy side.

But let's talk about the free spirited and very gifted Sara K. She's brave, goes where she wants to go, and she takes you with her. That takes conviction, that seduction. Her lyrics are very unique to my ears, emotional and imagistic woman truth that goes down smoothly but is powerful medicine. She's been in Santa Fe for a long time, and there's so much of that environment in her sound. Sara plays a four string guitar. The guitar she got from her sister as a young dreamer only had four; and so a style began, reality rather than necessity the mother of invention. From the artist:

"I've been playing the four-string since around 1972. Taught myself on a busted guitar that was tuned backwards. Now I have 3 variations. Am having one custom made in Germany right now. The bridge will have 2 sets of grooves--one for nylon, the other for Elixirs (sort of like brass wound). It's tuned to an open A. The register is somewhere between bass and baritone. Mostly, it's about having an instrument that simplifies the chord patterns and structures. At the beginning, I just needed something to write on and sing with. But, over all this time, it's become a part of my sound. And soul." --- Frank Goodman, sarak.com

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