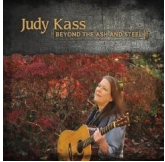


Judy Kass - Beyond the Ash and Steel (2016)

Written by bluelover

Thursday, 21 January 2016 16:55 - Last Updated Saturday, 25 February 2017 17:36

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01. *Chili Pepper Nights* (3:09) 02. *Same Sorry Old Timeless Tale* (2:32) 03. *The Snows They Melt the Soonest* (4:15) 04. *Laugh* (3:36) 05. *Beyond the Ash and Steel* (3:24) 06. *Carry Me Nowhere* (3:48) 07. *Turn Us Around* (3:26) 08. *Reckless Driving* (3:27) 09. *Vastness of Now* (3:56) 10. *Selfless Deed* (3:53)

"Beyond the Ash and Steel" quickly draws in the listener with soulful vocals, no-nonsense lyrical storytelling and Judy's genre-bending exploration of guitar and piano. Her original music blends generous amounts of folk, jazz and blues with songs that cover the full gamut of mood and experience -- ranging from whimsical musings of relationship challenges to her own personal journey of healing from post 9/11 trauma and the loss of numerous colleagues to the terror attacks.

Featuring nine original songs and an interpretation of "The Snows They Melt the Soonest" (Traditional), Judy's second album, "Beyond the Ash" and Steel, pushes past the celebrated intimate acoustic portrait of her first CD to reflect even more of her jazz and blues influences. The result is a pleasingly eclectic mix that includes several driving "foot-tapping" tracks.

As in her first album, Judy's abilities as a multi-instrumentalist, singer, writer, and arranger in *Beyond the Ash and Steel* are palpable in the creative and lyrical narrative, exquisite melodies and rich harmonics that showcase her transporting voice and command of her instruments.

"Beyond the Ash and Steel" includes the talents of Sara Milonovich (Richard Shindell), Dan Hickey (They Might Be Giants, Joe Cocker), Mark Dann and the legendary John Sebastian. It also features sizzling trumpet licks and vocal harmony from Judy's own daughter -- Kyla

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Moscovich -- an award winning trumpeter.

Judy's debut album, Better Things, co-produced by Jay Mafale (The Ya Yas, No Fuss and Feathers) and released in early 2014, received notable airplay, topping Folk and Roots radio charts for months after its release. It was also included on both the Roots Music Report's and the Folk DJ Listerv's 2014 year-end top albums charts.

Co-produced with Mark Dann, "Beyond the Ash and Steel" is full of unique twists and turns of lyric, melody and harmonics that have a distinct groove while offering a familiar warmth.
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