

CD REVIEWS

Odin Dragonfly - Offerings

ODCD001, August 2007

Tracks: Web, Given Time, How I Feel Today, Magpie, Yellow Time, This Game, Round & Round, Witches Promise, Waiting For The Snow, Magnolia Half Moon, Caught In A Fold, Forsaken Love.



Even though Odin Dragonfly is still something of a part-time project, the release of the debut album in August has given the project greater gravitas.

For many reasons, some mentioned in the last issue, the release of Odin Dragonfly's debut album was somewhat delayed but finally appeared in August.

The first thing to impress me was the cover artwork courtesy of Richard Nagy. Very few albums in my collection have artwork that I believe truly represents the music but this really does deliver on that score.

What did surprise me when reading through the album credits is just how little collaboration there is on the compositions. Not to mention the time frame in which they were created. Some were copyrighted several years ago and in fact only one song, the album's opening track 'Web' has a joint credit for the lyrics.

It's even more surprising then that two separate songwriters have written songs independently of each other over a decade, yet they all sound perfectly at home with each other on this collection. Angela in particular has minimum writing compositions with Mostly Autumn, and although her song writing style might not fit the Mostlies, Offerings shows just how talented she is. It is also one of the album's strengths that with the obvious exception of the re-workings of 'Yellow Time' and 'Caught In A Fold', the songs don't sound like Mostly Autumn left-overs but a strong set of polished compositions with a completely different style, approach and feel to the mother band.

I know I've said it before, and although it is sometimes inevitable that outside projects can sound like the band they came from, its far more rewarding if they sound vastly different, even if the style might not find favour with some of the mother band's audience. Fortunately Odin Dragonfly score on both accounts: the album has been well received by many others aside from me and at the same time offers something quite different but just as enjoyable in its own way.

What the girls have done that shows how well produced this is, is to utilise each other's talents on their own compositions. A perfect example is 'Magpie', one of the strongest of Heather's songs on this album, but strengthened further by Angela's flute contribution, which lifts the song even more. Likewise 'Round And Round' uses the guitar to carry the melody as much as the piano. While it's fair to say that Heather is no Jeff Beck, it would have been so easy just to have stuck to this as a piano piece but the guitar once again adds to the arrangement. The pick of the bunch that embodies this approach to the full is 'Magnolia Half-Moon' and once again the piano, and particularly the flute work are the icing on the cake to a great song from Heather. In general a strong and well-produced album and another worthy addition to the ever-growing MA affiliated canon. (JB)