Mp3 Sara Pace - Folk: Modern Folk



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"Sara Pace is a brand new blast from the past. Not a ghost from country records past, rather a mod Americana rocker with a folkie's soul and a truckload of talent, wisdom and sincerity." -Molly Snyder Edler at onmilwaukee.com 10 MP3 Songs FOLK: Modern Folk, ROCK: Americana Details: Performing Songwriter Magazine (Vol. 10, Issue 70), June 2003 DIY Reviews: Top 12 Do-It-Yourself Reviews performingsongwriter.com/pages/70/diy12.cfm Sara Pace Self-Titled Produced by Sara Pace, Doug Milks and Lance Ketterer Understated and absolutely lovely, Sara Pace's record Self-Titled (yep, that's the title) is a mesmerizing foray into windswept Midwestern folk. Her compositions and melodies call to mind Greg Brown and John Prine, especially on tunes like the pedal steel-bejeweled "Gilman Avenue." Her reserved, glimmering voice conjures both Gillian Welch and Nanci Griffith, though it's not so fragile. This is a moody, ghostly record subdued both in content and delivery. And it's gorgeous. At its most haunting, on songs like "Lay My Body Down" and "More Real", this record sweeps across the listener like a chill wind. At its most melancholy, as on "Starlight", it is heartbreaking. At its most joyous, on "Hard to Imagine" it's bouncy and infectious but, ultimately, not really all that happy-just beautiful. DIY Record Reviews by Clay Steakley **** RICK'S CAF South Central Wisconsin's Local Music Newsletter (Vol. 1 No. 5) May 9, 2003 Review by: Rick Tvedt, Editor rickscafe.org Sara Pace has written a great album. Beautifully recorded by Lance Ketterer at Digital Glass studio in Mazomanie (WI), "self-titled", Pace's first recording, radiates sincerity and wisdom beyond her years. Acoustic guitars, provided by Pace and her musical partner (and now husband) Doug Milks, are the main backdrop for these folk tales, which are sparingly augmented by violin, steel guitar, and in some cases, bass and drums, leaving plenty of space for Pace's sweetly intoned stories. It's an exercise in understatement that works both musically and lyrically. Pace's voice at once sounds both Midwestern and Kentuckian, a smooth alto that underscores the beckoning nature of

her songs. Never delving too far into country, and exposing shades of a more alt-country sensibility, 'self titled' comes off as a folk rocker's resignation to self-restraint. Recurring themes in these songs are aging and reflection and Pace mines these thoroughly and effectively. "Lay My Body Down," one of the most compelling on the disc, find's Pace's vocal sounding genuine and emotional, contemplating life and coming straight form the soul. The standout track has to be "Politeness," which Pace has stated was written after a bout of writer's block, when she finally stopped looking for excuses and started pointing the finger at herself: "All I could use is a little less politeness/ A little less politeness/ And a little more pedal steel guitar." As one might guess the song is treated with some great pedal steel, courtesy of Mark Krutke, who also turns in stellar performances on "Gilman Avenue" (perhaps my favorite track for personal reasons) and "Hard To Imagine," another ode to growing old. Biff Blumfumgagnge provides some excellent and haunting violin on "More Real" and "Starlight," a song that further exemplifies Pace's confessional lyric style: "Now I like the nighttime/ The shine of a star/ Look closely at it/ And heaven don't seem so far/ But I despise the morning light/ The ring of alarm bells/ get up, go to work/ And spend the whole day in hell." It's a song about loneliness and loss and it's beautifully stated. "Walk With Me" sums up the CD best with just Pace and Milks' guitars behind the vocal, a love song that closes the album very nicely.

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