

SUSIE FITZGERALD – RESTLESS

For her second solo album, "Restless," Denver, Colorado-based Susie Fitzgerald has written twelve new songs, mostly in the acoustic folk and alt.country genres, but with elements from rock and swing music also to be found. She honed the singer-songwriter craft as a participant in Richard Thompson's Music Master Camp, where Shawn Colvin, Richard and Teddy Thompson and Sloan Wainwright were active as teachers.

Themes such as love, grief, anger, and friendship are covered in the songs on "Restless", which Susie Fitzgerald recorded in the Denver studio with co-producer Kyle Zender, as well as on her debut album "Plenty" from 2012. That was a CD of songs she had written after the painful termination of a long-term love relationship and a kind of 'burn-out' about her professional activities.

Deeply sensitive and personal lyrics are not so keenly present on "Restless," but a more intensive look at the lyrics in the booklet in the CD still reveals great attention to the carefully selected words she has written in her musical stories on this album.

There are large chunks of psychology and philosophy in several of the poetic lyrics to "Restless", e.g. in the opening track "The Hardest March" and the subsequent country tune "Mended Fences", both of which deal with the end of a relationship with different perspectives that neither former partner can or will deviate from. Other great tracks are "Keep On Driving", the jazzy "Devil Dog", the country ballad and tearjerker "Everywhere & Nowhere", the swinging rock song "Rattlesnake", and the clever album title track and lead single "Restless".

Susie Fitzgerald accompanies herself on acoustic guitar as she sings, while producer Kyle Zender plays lead guitar and bass, with Hill Baker on drums, Phil Norman on cello, Chris Speasmaker on keyboards and John Macy on pedal steel guitar often cropping up in these songs. Thom Flora and Chris Woods additionally provide backing vocals on several songs.

A substantial portion of the proceeds from the sale of "Restless" is donated to charity, namely an organization dealing with animal welfare, a theme that Susie Fitzgerald apparently holds very close to her heart.

—Valère Sampermans, *ROOTSTIME*, Belgium