



An Introduction to Amelia Blake

by Miss Lana

Amelia Blake, a totally unfamiliar name to me before I received a copy of her self-produced CD in the mail along with a letter requesting a review. I was flattered at the time, but now I am both flattered and thankful. I may not have ever known about her music if she hadn't taken the initiative to send me her CD. It would have been me that missed out. Her letter to me said that she recorded the CD simply because people were always asking her for one after they saw her show. After listening to this album, I can understand why.

Amelia Blake is from the Bossier City area of Louisiana. Knowing nothing about Amelia's background, I took a peek at her website looking for a bio. There isn't one, so I still don't have any insight to Amelia's musical influences or personal history. What I can tell you is that this gal has managed to produce a quality sounding CD with original music that surprised me and will probably surprise you as well. This is an album that is as pure as it gets...a singer with a guitar, end of story. Not quite. It's soft, gentle music that flows with the lyrics like a tree branch floating lazily down a glistening stream.

Sometimes I struggle to find the words to describe music I hear, to describe it to readers so that they can almost hear what I'm describing, or at least get some idea. In Amelia's case I would tell you that if she had Champ Hood, Casper Rawls and Scrappy Jud Newcomb backing her, Amelia would sound almost like Toni Price. Not that she needs a back-up band, she's great solo. I'm just trying to give you an idea of what Amelia's music is like - that bluesy voice that is smooth as glass and easy on the ears. I would call it a country blues sound with a folk flair. On top of this, Amelia writes her own songs, penning all but one song on this CD herself. She co-wrote "Stop Me (If You've Heard this One)" with Theresa Ball.

*"It's been a long hard ride to nowhere,
Now I've got to wonder where I've been.
I always believed we were getting somewhere,
but no where's where I am".*

When a musician can write songs that make people stop and think (or listen), a story people can relate to and then put it with the right music, it's solid. I don't know how long Amelia has been a musician, but she is solid in every sense of the word. Her singing, songwriting and picking are all good together it's more than good, it's great. It is very apparent without ever seeing her perform that she can hold her own on a stage.

Written by Lana Hughes, 2000