

Fateful Belle Review

Folk Northwest – December 2019

CD, DVD and Book Reviews

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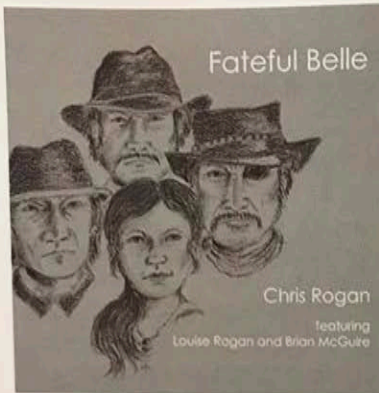
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CHRIS ROGAN Fateful Belle UKEAU00319



Lancashire based singer/songwriter, Chris Rogan is quietly building quite a following, his writing is perceptive and gives his repertoire an honest, earthy feel, which alas, I can't say about some of his contemporaries.

This, his third CD brings together his daughter, Louise, who has a pure soaring voice and Brian McGuire, whose mandolin and mandola provide the perfect foil for Chris' guitar gymnastics.

The title track, "Fateful Belle", tells of a trip Chris made to Wyoming in 2017. Belle Drewery was someone who lived a short life back in 1891. This is her tale of woe.

"Standing Bear", was a native American and Indian chief, a remarkable man. He successfully challenged the US Government and their view of his people. He couldn't prevent them taking their lands but he did resist the erosion of their culture. As the song reminds us, it still happens today around the world.

A complete change of tack comes with the traditional, "Mary and the Soldier", a slightly different tune well executed and smooth vocals.

Padraig MacCumhaill's much performed, "Mary of Dungloe", is the story of events he witnessed in Dungloe, Co. Donegal. Chris sang it with his dad and here performs it

with his daughter. Infidelity, murder and mayhem keeps us in Ireland with, "Tippin' it Up For Nancy", a tall tale with a twist.

The Spanish Armada of 1588 provides us with two facts. "Francisco De Cuellar", is the tale of the wreck of La Trinidad Valancera in Kinnegoe Bay, Donegal and the survival of the aforementioned Francisco De Cuellar.

Chris put an arrangement together with Brian for one of Brian's compositions, "Tyneside Girl", a love story from Brian's beloved north east. A tale of lost love.

The universally loved, "Galway Shawl", is sung here by Chris and Louise as a duet, superbly I might add.

The "Dancer's Song", from Chris' first album is revisited with Brian adding mandolin to "The Donegal Reel", as a fitting tribute to the dancer.

Next, another true but equally sad story of Phillip Vetter, a mountain man killed by a grizzly bear in the remote wilderness of the wild west, intriguingly titled, "Where I Can See the Stars".

"A Song Borrowed", be it created or collected is quite simply lent to us to take from and to share.

I would suggest you seek this recording out and do just that.

Chris has a gentle, yet authoritative voice complimented here by the flawless tones of his daughter Louise, add to that Brian's sensitive accompaniment and vocals and you have a CD that would enhance any collection.

David Jones

