

Darryl Holter, Stella Parton and Bobby Flores – New To CSO
Review By: George Peden, CSO Staff Journalist
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Here at CSO the time is right for some needed housekeeping. The vaults are stacked and stuffed. We have music, which for reasons of time and space, is still in need of a review. George Peden remedies that, as he checks in on some new music bubbling just under the radar.

Darryl Holter - Self-titled – 213 Music

Delve and delve deeply into the life and lyrics of Minneapolis born Darryl Holter, and you'll find a storyteller, one who has lived richly against the backdrop of his folksy tunes. From his liner notes, we learn his musical hero is Bob Dylan. We also learn Holter played on picket lines with Pete Seeger. These two influences shine out, and brightly, on an album, that by contrast, is truthfully moody.

Tracks like "Living On The Edge" with its tough times and low spirits, captures the lyrical truth: "The setting sun, the rising moon, the memories forgot too soon, the vacuum sucking up your breath, somewhere between life and death, living on the edge," all the while showcasing Holter's sensitivities for the human condition.

The probing relevance of "I Should Have Seen It Coming", a weathered look at the need to check before you buy, be it life or love, is a tune that sits well here on this, Holter's debut. So, too, are over-time favorites "Best," a dirt road tune of travel and distance and how it makes the heart grow fonder; also in the mix "Gambler's Holiday," "Cardboard Lover" and the Parisian travelogue "Left Bank Blues" – all tunes with a message, carried by a sincere voice with worldly experience.

Darryl Holter ain't for everyone. I suspect he isn't trying to be. However, his music is an ideal shadow to the life and times we may have lived, at least those of us with a wrinkle or two and a few miles on the dash.

"These songs are stories from my life," he says, talking about the album. "It's my personal musical journey from country music to folk, protest songs to blues, and finally, to whatever it is that I do today."

CSO comment: This is a reflective and thoughtful debut.