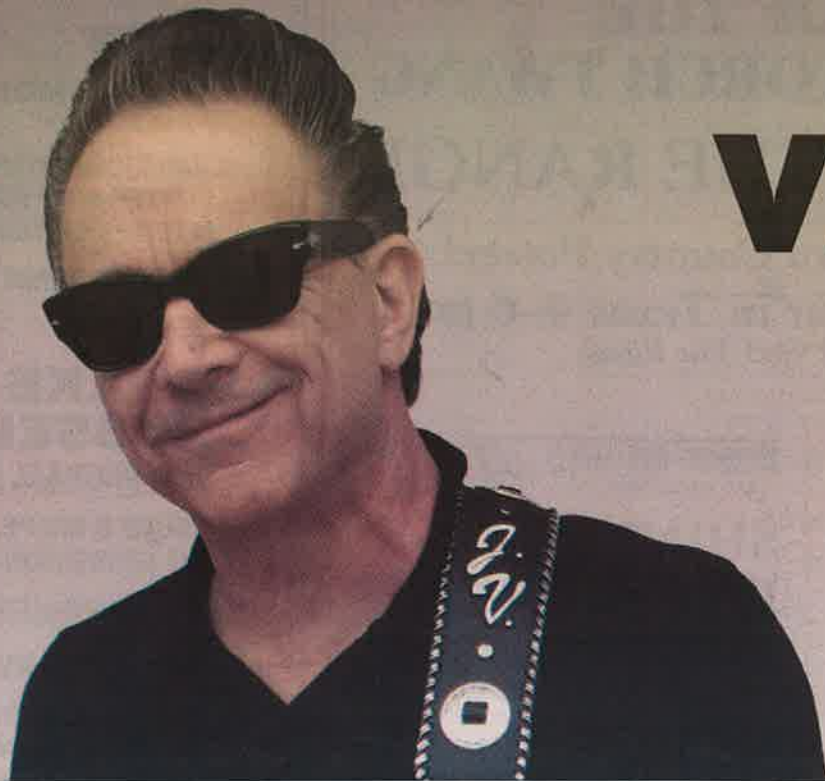


BUDDY

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THE
ORIGINAL
TEXAS
MUSIC
MAGAZINE



JIMMIE VAUGHAN

KIRBY F. WARNOCK'S
HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE
TO THE
MUSIC UNIVERSE



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the songs on his new CD: *Adam Hood*

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the one-time novelist often writes new novels or at least short stories in three- and five-minute, sometimes sentimental and sometimes simply existential songs.

Russell explores various kinds of borders and border towns, show biz and reality in 15 well-crafted songs — 14 of them his own, one of those a co-write with **Augie Meyers**. The only cover is an 8:54-minute, brooding interpretation of **Bob Dylan's** "A Hard Rain's A Gonna Fall" with **Lucinda Williams** and **Calexico**.

Most of his legends are gone, it seems, "but they fly around like angels in my unconscious mind" or are buried in potter's graves or in the small print of some newspaper's obituary page.

His imagery and ideas are clear, including this **Ray Bradbury** line that he turns into something new: "something wicked this way comes," and "the carnival is breaking ground with its rousabouts and bums, and the hoochie-koochie dancing girls with sawdust in their hair, and the band

played **John Philip Sousa** in a land called way out there . . . all we've learned about love and violence comes from bibles and movie magazines."

And: "look how far we've come, do we know who we are, stranded on a mountaintop trying to catch a falling star, here's to what we left behind us, here's to what we kept inside, may the road that lies before us lead to a place where love abides."

And, on "Roll the Credits, Johnny," literally and figuratively sitting in a cool, dark movie theater: "wasn't it beautiful, didn't we forget the sad times for a while, but it's dark now on the streets of life . . . singing keeps the fear away, and wisdom keeps the walls at bay, remember all that we might have been, all the love that could have been."

—TOM GEDDIE

Jeannie Clark Fisher
Familia
Self-released

THERE'S JUST SOMETHING FASCINATING about a classically trained singer doing folk songs, such a cross fertilization of some of civilization's elements. **Jeannie Clark Fisher** does that on *Familia*, inspired by a trip to Italy and drawing on a wide palette of influences.

It's a mature, sometimes playful, and seemingly very personal collection of originals, covers ranging the simple philosophy of a traditional **Shaker** folk song to a familiar old tarantella rewritten to recount a belt-



He explores various kinds of borders and border towns, show biz and reality in 15 well-crafted songs: *Tom Russell*

loosening culinary trip across the Roman feast tables.

Fisher turns **S.D. Stephenson's** "Song of the Earth" into a plea: "I want to sing it for all that's it's worth, let it roll, let it roll, a mother needs her children now, to love and make her whole."

She sings that the bond between a mother and child can be "Like a Hurricane Wind."

She sings of "Destiny's Door:" "I could be a soldier knowing pain from wounds and battles, walking drenched through barren fields with feet as cold as ice, but I am just a lover drenched only with your kisses, heated not from battle but your body wrapped around me."

On the Shaker song, "Simple Gifts," she shares: "'tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free, 'tis a gift to come down where we ought to be."

In her youth in New Jersey, Fisher once opened for an equally youthful **Bruce Springsteen**. Today she's part of the **Dallas Opera Chorus** and is half of the folk duo **Twice as Far** with **Judi Alstatt Allen**.

Fisher — the mom — adds piano and acoustic guitar to her vocals. She's accompanied by Alstatt (hammered dulcimer, clarinet, vocals), **Ramon Mazquiz** (percussion), **Brett Crow** (electric and acoustic bass), **Dhrava** (mandolin, flute), **Matt Shasteen** (electric guitar), **Karen Bentel** (flute), **Linda Prock** (violin), and background vocalists including her daughter **Sarah Lynn Fisher**, who in her own life plays keyboards and sings for the band **Young and Brave**.

—TOM GEDDIE

Amanda Shires
Carrying Lightning
Little Lambs
Eat Ivy Music

IT'S BEEN MY PLEASURE TO watch **Amanda Shires** grow from a young fiddle player and backup

singer to a fine songwriter, solo artist, and producer with an Americana Music Association-charting new CD, *Carrying Lightning*. (And from a teenager into a grown woman, although she probably still doesn't like that "grown up" notion.) I was at the AllGood Café in Dallas when, with **Thrift Store Cowboys**, she nervously sang lead for what I believe was the first time, and asked if she did okay.

"Hearts Are Breaking," from her first CD, is as good a song as I've heard.

On the new CD, highlights include "When You Need a Train It Never Comes," a sad song about the aftermath of a relationship; the melancholy "Ghostbird;" "Love be a Bird" (I could use some flying now); and "Kudzu," which is a love song rather than a condemnation of an invasive species.

The closing instrumental, "Swimmer," sounds like a classical piece, so it is. This is a thoughtful and consistently good folk, pop, bit of country and gypsy collection of a dozen original songs with an accumulation of poetic turns of phrase, well performed.

Shires sings and plays fiddle, ukulele, and other strings. She's joined on the elegantly played CD by her co-producers **David Henry** (strings, percussion, pianos) and **Rod Picott** (acoustic and electric guitars) plus **Chris Scruggs** (steel guitar), **Tommy Perkinson** (drums and other percussion, toy piano), **Neal Casal** (electric and acoustic guitars, harmony vocals), **Paul Slivka** (bass), **Will Kimbrough** (electric guitar), **Colt Miller** from Thrift Store Cowboys (banjo and acoustic guitar), **Kris Killingsworth** (drums), and **Steph Dickinson** (upright bass).

After I first listened to this CD, it got lost in the desk clutter and every time it surfaced I would think I'd already reviewed it. I hadn't, but now I have. Go find a copy for yourself.

—TOM GEDDIE



She sings and plays fiddle, ukulele, and other strings: *Amanda Shires*