

December 2006



Glory Box

Into the Violets

Fragile Ego Records

Connecticut-based Glory Box may not have a high profile on the music scene, but their new CD contains one of the finest songs you'll hear this year. "Dive Into Me" is an invitation from vocalist/writer Mandy Dietz that's almost impossible to ignore, with an incredible hook and feel. Chiming rhythm guitars abound, and the solo by Don Pappas is a brilliant mix of

chords and slightly distorted single-line runs. It's melodic heaven—the kind of song that's impossible to quit listening to.

While the rest of the record isn't as strong (how could it be?), it's still a really good package from a tasty pop-folk band that uses hints of jazz and rock. Dietz' vocals are lovely throughout, conveying meaning and feel in every cut with a sincerity rarely heard outside of jazz. And Pappas, along with Sean Cronin (bass and dobro), Paul Pita (drums), and guests like Rob Feters (guitar on several cuts), create a unique sound. "Sirens" is an atmospheric pop tune with an amazing guitar sound. "Breathe Again" has great changes, jangly guitars, and an acoustic slide solo by Feters that has George Harrison smiling, wherever he is. "Mess" is a smoky jazz tune with nice guitar from Pappas and piano from guest Matt Rohde. "Don't Think I'm Thinkin'" is southern soul with a great lyric and bluesy guitar fills. And "Other Side of Night" is a perfect ender; an airy pop tune with fine distorted electric guitar and a piano/drum/acoustic guitar section that features fine changes.

These days, it's hard to find intelligent, listenable pop music, but *Into the Violets* more than fills the bill. — JH