



DISCOVERY

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Deborah Lombardi

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Independent

Deborah Lombardi is yet another talented female acoustic artist who is starting to make a name for herself on the Long Island original music scene. This, her debut CD, is a 5-song demo of her music.

A couple of things strike me about Lombardi that make her stand out. For one thing, she has a voice that is both strong and distinctive. I can pick her voice out, even if I've never heard a song before. The other thing that makes her stand out is her songwriting. She tends to piece together unusual chord patterns that make you listen to her songs -- you expect to hear one chord next, but instead, she goes in another direction entirely. There's something circular about her songs -- they spin around a theme rather than plowing directly through it.

The production here is very sparse. It's just Lombardi and her guitar (or piano). The song that blows me away on this CD is called "A Taken Man". It's sung from the viewpoint of a young woman obsessing over a married man, and making herself want him more even as she tries to tell herself she can't have him. ("I drove the circumference of the city / To calm down and shake off this feeling / You're wiser and your life's complete / I'd serve no purpose, give you nothing"). There's a dark and desperate feeling here. "Something About a Man" is also a winner.

Over the years, I can think of quite a few songs written by men about how much better the world is because women exist. This is the first I can think of where a woman sings about all the good things she sees in men. "Ghost of You" and "City Limits" are also pretty strong guitar songs, whereas "Cure for Tears" is a slow piano song with a double tracked vocal.

Deborah Lombardi has a website at www.deborahlombardi.com. I'd encourage anyone who appreciates the whole singer/songwriter thing to check her music out.

- Rich Hughes