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some music you have heard - some music you may have not

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Roesy's Masks

Roesy's Masks

by Jesse Schmitt

I don't know where my head has been these last years. I'm very impressed how so-so musical acts can get all this play, everywhere; and for the last four years or more this amazing singer, songwriter, and guitar player has been lurking in the shadows. Alas, this is the way for the American music industry ("Can I get a what-what") but never fear as the world stage continues not to let us down.

From the Irish artist known as Roesy comes the 2006 release "Colour Me Colourful." When I first heard this record I was flummoxed with a mixture of restrained jubilation and anticipatory depression as I felt I'd already missed something huge. The fact is that Roesy is still around and for any fans of off-the-mainstream, acoustic pop, his soft spoken excellence will sweep you off your feet and take you off and away.

Roesy's image, standing in a purple chef's jacket holding his guitar on the blacktop backdrop which is colored in psychedelic Rastafarian paints; I was taken back to the late 1980's. To the uninformed eye, you'd think that this poor guy stumbled onto the photo shoot at a Milli Vanilli sound stage. It seems as though that this photo shoot is where his album title came from. Further research would reveal that Roesy actually has an impressive art resume as well. But on this record, the art is in the music and the Colours are certainly there in the songs and in the musician.

Roesy's sound seems a strange amalgam of every one of my favorite musicians of the last fifty years. It's a little bit hard to describe. He's European; Irish, so, there you go; there are definite vocal similarities with Crowded House; but there are also hints of Cat Stevens, those Gallagher brothers, and, on first listen, I kept going back to Thom Yorke. Maybe it was the Euro lilt; though it seemed to be much more. Roesy's songs are nothing like Radiohead. They're more like Radiohead doing lullaby's. Or Jazz. There is a definite homage to some of the American jazz greats; Duke, Louis; but there's a free form about the music which reminded me of Mingus, Coltrane, Cobham. I hear the Eagles, I hear Steely Dan, I hear Paul Simon and I hear none of them. This is a sound which washed over me with its simplistically beautiful originality.

Colour Me Colourful starts out with fingers snapping, wind

Stephen King Guitar/Vid

All things ePond, Optic Frog, web, music & guitar from "a" Stephen King

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This is the place to come for all the latest news and reviews for NOT Michael Bolton or Mariah Carey...We're kind of interested in obscure/indie...Although I do have an affinity for that "Seattle Scene" from the 90's (is that obscure again?)...And The Shins.

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