

Bernie Parry - PITCH AND TOSS (Own Label)



Pitch And Toss, labelled "a 2-CD collection of the best-known songs of Bernie Parry", is a set which has been lovingly compiled by Bernie himself, probably as much in order to afford an opportunity for him to look back on and revisit key songs from his long career as to present to the listener an overview of that career.

If you're already familiar with Bernie's work, then you'll know most if not all of the 30 tracks here - but four of his finest songs appear on this set in newly (2009) re-recorded versions that in all cases score points over the original recordings (the underrated *Oh You* and *The Arms Of Spring* in particular I feel).

The first disc "pitches" you in with all or most of the songs you'd expect him to perform in a typical live set, including those for which he's most celebrated (*Man Of The Earth*, *Jack Of Hawthorn*, *The Village Fool*, *Davy*, *The Harper*, etc. - all inevitable and mandatory choices but nevertheless welcome) alongside some more recently-composed favourites like *Ride The '61*.

Disc 2 then expands the selection by "tossing" together a roughly equivalent number of songs (well, including one instrumental theme) that Bernie himself views as among his best, e.g. *The Pedlar's Road*, *A Merry Dance*, *The Sailor's Earring* and the early classic *Green And Peaceful Ocean*. You'll be likely to agree with me, though, that while Bernie has undoubtedly done his own *œuvre* keen justice in assembling what in essence amounts to a true "best-of" collection, there are at the same time plenty more songs that would very probably equally qualify for inclusion (and in so doing stretch the set to three discs!).

If, however, you've never or rarely tasted the delights of Bernie's distinctive and distinguished songwriting, then here's the place from which to embark on an exploration, for definite. It forms a persuasive demonstration not only of the excellence of Bernie's songwriting but also of his (more undersung) instrumental versatility (he modestly, if casually lumps it all under the term "plays everything" when crediting the majority of the tracks!).

Over the course of the two hours plus playing time, you'll find Bernie's music incredibly consistent as regards both quality and style of writing and

performance, and though not every selection will be to everyone's taste you'll be hard pressed to find a weak one anywhere on these well-filled discs.

www.bernieparry.com