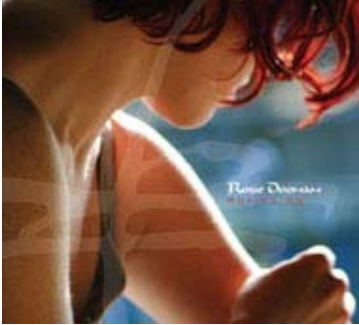


Rosie Doonan - MOVING ON (Silvertop Records)



Winner of the BBC Young Folk Award in 2006 in tandem with Ben Murray, Rosie here moves even further away from her family heritage (the Doonan Family Band), and indeed folk music, presenting for her debut solo outing a confident set of songs (presumably all her own work, though actual confirmation of this is mysteriously absent from the CD's credits) that focus on exactly what the title denotes: moving on and making a fresh start and all the feelings and emotions associated with those key activities (travelling, falling in and out of love, developing new

ideas and so on).

In doing so, Rosie is following the time-honoured path (and themes) of those singer-songwriters who have - on the evidence of the music on this disc - clearly much inspired her (notably perhaps, Carole King and Joni Mitchell).

Moving On is an absorbingly mature artistic statement, couched in a distinctly radio-friendly (and in fact not especially folksy) musical language and intelligently realised settings that any major-league recording artist would be proud to embrace in a bid for airplay and chart success.

There are points when it feels almost as though Rosie has moved on just a bit too far for a first-timer, whereas at other times the sweetness and brightness of the instrumental palette is a front for some pretty deep reflection; don't let the accessibility and forwardly-placed breeziness of many of the musical settings deceive you into treating these songs lightly. For example, the most sparsely-scored of the songs (*Hold On*) forms a bleak contrast to the busy, toyshop-playful psych-pop confection of *Little Boat*, but both carry their own persuasive degree of emotional weight.

All in all, the songs together encompass a range of emotional states which Rosie proves herself more than capable of expressing vocally, with a haunting tonal quality and an enviable control of phrasing and inflection that seems almost prescient and certainly beyond her years.

The settings are informed by a semi-jazzy, pop-conscious sensibility and boosted by some splendid musicianship courtesy of folks like Peter Tickell, Michael Doonan, Bob Thomas, with Joss and Theo Clapp figuring large in the picture.

In view of the importance rightly placed on Rosie's songwriting here, though, it's a bit of a shame that she didn't include the lyrics in the package.

www.myspace.com/rosiedoonan

www.rosiedoonan.com