

Kate Weekes' Masterful New Voice

Oh what a feeling to be in the sunshine again, warm, torpid and listening to a new release. I have been anticipating Kate Weekes' new CD as I have the first blush of spring.

Kate Weekes' new self-titled CD is a treat. Within these 13 tracks are worlds of love and parting, abounding visions of and deep dedication to a country wherein every place is an adventure worthy of travel and exploration.

All the tracks represented on this CD have the craft and compassion of an increasingly skilled songwriter.

Bassist
Gene See

Keevil and fiddler Keitha Clark are supporting this current album on tour. With the addition of these two musicians, this dynamic trio becomes a formidable music-making machine.

Weekes' acoustic sound has an inherently strong bottom end, a sound that resonates and sometimes carries a drone throughout a song. With the addition of Keevil on bass, this dynamic range resounds with punch and power, the styling of Clark's violin supplement, suffuse and solidify the melody in the upper register.

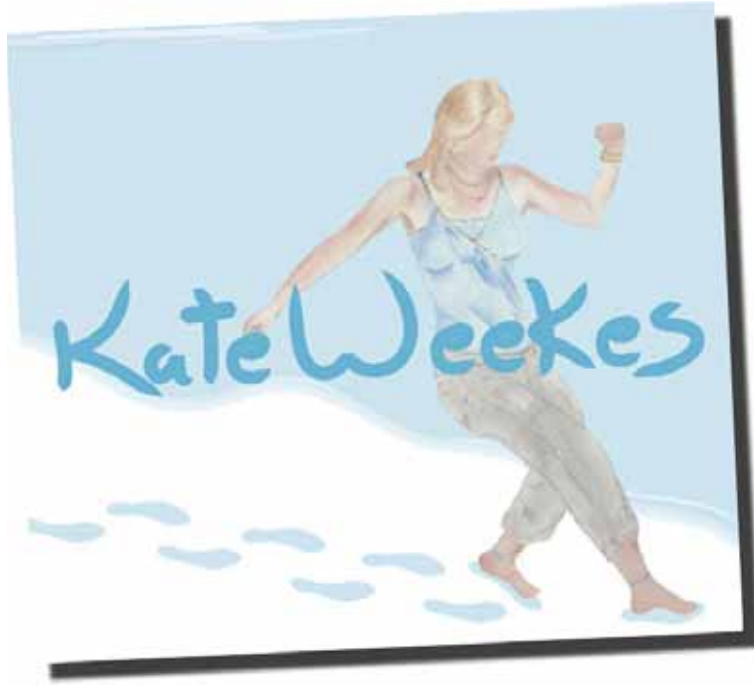
In the song, *The Lost Patrol*, Weekes relays the story of four North West Mounted Police officers who perished in 1911 while working the Dawson Patrol. This

story is one of the sad chapters in NWMP and Yukon history; much like *Lake Laberge* on her last CD, it is played in a haunting minor key.

the tracks that have been completed since her EP release last year have a distinctive and natural ease to them.

A strong and expressive tone is evident here that harkens back to the heyday of Canadian folk music

great strength. When she sings of a place, it is as though she is singing to a



Kate Weekes' new self-titled CD uses a new voice that reminds the listener of Janis Joplin and Joni Mitchell. With skilled songwriting and backup, it is a formidable addition to any CD collection.

This famous Weekes minor key combined with her turn of phrase has the ability to send shivers down your spine.

Though she has always been a talented soprano and able to pull off all the vocal gymnastics that a falsetto break can require,

Weekes' voice, musically and literally, compared to the tracks she recorded on her *Land Shaping The People* EP from a year ago, has developed most dramatically.

Witness Where Have You Been?, a song that has a jazzy swing to it and has Weekes at her vocal best.



in the style of Pied Pumpkin or perhaps Joni Mitchell with a bit of Janis Joplin's confident, drawling growl creeping in here and there.

Simply put, Weekes has found a new voice on this album.

I realize this is a lot of historical perspective to drop in the lap of one young performer. But I've found in our brief exchanges a seriousness of dedication to her art and its execution:

this may be Kate Weekes'

lover or old friend. When she turns to sing of personal feelings, they seem to exalt within her a poignant flash of memory.

Be sure to check out her schedule and get your friends and family around Canada out to see her on tour.

Her CD is available online at www.kateweekes.com or pick one up at your favourite local CD shops around town.

Bill Polonsky can most often be found in sunny patches around Whitehorse or at www.strangethingsdone.com.

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