

TRACY SPRING BIOGRAPHY AND ALBUM REVIEW



Tracy Spring has won multiple regional awards for her singing and songwriting. She displays a style all her own while combining folk, blues, swing, old R and B, and jazz influences. Spring lives in Bellingham, Washington and is a fourth generation Washingtonian. She's performed and toured in folk venues throughout North America and Australia for over three decades, often combining a musical life with social justice work. Tracy's songs "Sometimes Angels," "Somebody's Child," "In Our Hands," and "What Would You Give To Change the World" have become soundtracks for philanthropy, raising funds for thousands of charitable organizations. In addition to these humanitarian anthems, she co-wrote (with Janis Carper and Becca Christel) "Of This World," recorded by Peter, Paul & Mary on their 2004 studio album, *In These Times*. Tracy is now booking fall and winter shows to promote her latest album, *"Looking Forward-Looking Back"*, a collection of reflective songs ranging from expressive finger style ballads to rockin' bottleneck blues.



A review written for the Folk & Acoustic Music Exchange by Mark Horn

"Looking Forward - Looking Back" the new release by Bellingham, WA, songwriter Tracy Spring sizzles with passion and is steamier than an August night in New Orleans. While the title cut is a reprise from her first album, it serves as the perfect anchor for this new effort, masterfully setting its tone and theme. *Get Lucky With You* is among the most clever and steamy songs I've heard in a long time.

Flame is a raw, poetic expression of love and the fear evoked by falling deeply in love. Tracy's powerful lyrics remind the listener why love is really why we exist. Trouble reminds me of the great lyric by Si Kahn, "It ain't what you're given, it's what you do with what you got."

In *Long Time Gone*, Tracy tells the story of Grace, one of those very special people whose life was a reflection of her name. May we all have the good fortune to know someone like Grace. The other great story song is *Red Bull*, a heart-wrenching tale of courage in the face of terror.

Songwriting is only half the story. Tracy Spring sports an astounding vocal range with rich tone and exquisite phrasing. The result is an album that is as musically persuasive as its lyrics are engaging. This is not pop music, so expect to listen several times before its richness is fully appreciated.

Production and engineering assistance are ably provided by long-time friend Janis Carper. An incredibly talented songwriter in her own right, Janis also brings solid backup vocals and a devastating slide guitar to the project. Tracy Spring is such a powerful poet that listening to this album took my breath away. It has been far too long since we got a new collection of songs from this incredible talent. This is an album you will listen to time and again. Treat yourself to a lovely example of the songwriter's art.

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