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Cali Rose – Are You Having Any Fun? CD Review by Mickey McGuire

Are You Having Any Fun? That's what Cali Rose wants to know. At least, that's the title track of her latest CD.

The CD features Cali Rose on vocals and playing a combination of finger-pickin' style uke and strumming accompaniment. Here is the song line-up:

1. Are You Having Any Fun
2. OO-Koo-Lay-Lay
3. True Love
4. Beautiful, Beautiful Hanalei
5. Soup Du Jour
6. Happy Ever After? No Such Ting
7. Beautiful Dreamer
8. Princess Poo-Poo-Ly
9. On Green Dolphin Street
10. Home Is Where I Set My Tushie Down
11. The Fishin' Hole (from the Andy Griffith TV show)
12. Maui Nights
13. Aren't You Glad You're You
14. Enjoy Yourself
15. Let Me Call You Sweetheart



"Are You Having Any Fun?" is a light little ditty that is summed up well with the title. This is a cute tune. Actually, the lyrics are really sage advice matched with a lively beat and solid rhythm.

"Oo-Koo-Lay-Lay." This is a song about that "tiny little git-fiddle we all love to play so much. Is it a baby guitar? Is it a fiddle? No, it's an oo-koo-oo-koo-oo-koo-oo-koo-lay-lay. A silly, fun song.

"True Love." A classic song that features finger-picking ukulele style. Cali Rose sings this one in a mellow, alto that couldn't get any smoother no matter how you try. Followed by "Beautiful, Beautiful Hanalei". This is a dreamy combination of music and vocals. I love the instrumentation in this latter tune in particular. It is the perfect compliment for Cali Rose's silky vocal on this song. Beautiful, indeed. The Steel guitar on this song is superb.

"Soup Du Jour." The intro in this song is sweet, great pickin... great style. This is another sultry song that is destined to be a classic and it was written by Jim Beloff and Herb Ohta. What a wonderful tune.

"Happy Ever After, No Such Ting" is another Cali Rose original. Nice melody and great little intro. Rick Cunha is singing backup vocal on this song. The song features "Tahitian Uke". I'd love to hear this song with a Reggae beat. It flirts with it as recorded here, but I can hear this in "Cocktail" or a similar movie.

"Beautiful Dreamer" is the Stephen Foster classic. I like the instrumental interlude in the middle - for lack of a better term. The ukulele sounds very sweet and mellow in this song.

"Princess Poo-Poo-Ly" is a cute little song about Pooly and her papaya. It's another little happy tune.

"On Green Dolphin Street." This song has another nice intro and picking throughout. This is a jazzy number that reminds me of something you'd hear in the Chicago jazz venue.

"Home Is Where I Set My Tushie Down" is a cute song. Clever lyrics. This is a fun song. I can't help but smile when I listen to it.

"The Fishin' Hole" is classic Sixties television. If you've ever watched the Andy Griffith show, you probably remember it.

"Maui Nights" I love the intro to this song. This is some nice ukulele playing. The vocals are perfect for this song. The steel guitar is dreamy and the entire song is ethereal. This song features Craig Brandau on ukulele.

"Aren't You Glad You're You" written by Heusen and Burke. Here is another song about enjoying life. It's a feel good song. Nice "chunk-a-chunk" rhythm. There's a little "scat" singing in this... just a touch. Nice work Cali Rose.

"Enjoy Yourself" is another cover tune. It has another upbeat rhythm. Nice little tune.

The CD wraps up with the classic song "Let Me Call You Sweetheart". Nice picking.

Cali Rose shows her versatility with this CD. She strums, picks, and sings her way into your heart with a combination of fun little ditties, love songs, and a few classics.

I love "True Love," "Beautiful, Beautiful Hanalei," and "Soup Du Jour." Those three songs were just wonderful.

Kudos to Jim Beloff and Herb Ohta for "Soup Du Jour". That was the highlight of the album. I do want to acknowledge, Cali Rose's "Home Is Where I Set My Tushie Down." It is a tune with cute lyrics and a meaning that is inspirational.

This CD was a very nice mix of tunes and styles. If you like upbeat, positive, happy songs, this CD is for you.

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