



Mike Driscoll

Country

Amy Gallatin & Roger Williams *Something 'Bout You*
Happy Appy Records mar-6

I WAS FIRST INTRODUCED to the art of country duet singing by the records of Gram Parsons and Emmylou Harris. As a hippy-dippy Deadhead, suddenly music that had seemed old-fashioned and corny to me was revealed as being part of a beautiful genre. My ears had been opened; Alleluia!

The subject of this review is from that beautiful genre, "Something 'Bout You" by Amy Gallatin and Roger Williams (The Dobro player, not the guy who founded Rhode Island). The songs are superb, as is the musicianship. The disc begins with the title track, written by Kevin Welch, a local bluegrass legend in western New England. It's about two people who are very happy with their lives as they are, thank you, but find themselves falling for each other anyway. "I've got this life of mine, It's nice and quiet and I like it fine. / I work real hard; I've got no time for you. / I've whiskied up my coffee cup, I'm sittin' here tryin' not to call you up. / It's gettin' to where I don't know what to do. / there's something 'bout you."

"I Thought I Heard You Calling My Name" is the second track on this disc, and it's a fine one. The

theme is typical for country music; "I thought I heard you calling my name, but by now you're so many miles away." "Slowly But Surely" is an upbeat "I'm falling in love, isn't it wonderful?" tune saved from a schmaltzy fate by the musicianship of Williams and some fine sound of his Dobro. "Tear Stained Letter," written by Roy Acuff, is a slow ballad featuring again some great Dobro work from Roger, as well as a nice piano fill by Ronnie Godfrey.

Tex-Mex style makes an appearance with "my Dreams," a sprightly tune with truly great pedal steel from John Heinrich. Amy then returns to her western roots with a song by Gene Autry, "Old Pal of Yesterday." "Don't Blame Me" has a distinct jazz feel to it, a slow tempo ballad with the percussionist making good use of his brushes. One of my personal favorite songs has always been "So Sad (To Watch Good Love Go Bad)." For me, it would take a lot for anyone to outdo the version by Gene Clark, but here, Amy and Roger do just that. The harmonies here are absolutely wonderful, with again, some great piano work from Ronnie Godfrey as well as fiddle from Shad

Cobb and more of that great steel from John Heinrich.

The CD closer is "I Don't Care," where Amy tells her lover that she doesn't care about other women in the past, she only wants him to be true to her from now on. "I don't care if I'm not the first love you've known, / just so I'll be the last." "Yesterday's gone/ love me from now on/ be true to me/ forget about the past.

The disc was recorded in Nashville, and the production is about what one would expect, with not a great deal of dynamic range. The stage is fairly wide, but without a lot of depth. The sound is crisp and clean as the proverbial whistle.

If you aren't familiar with the fine art of country duet singing, may I suggest this CD as a fine starting point for exploring the genre? May I also suggest, in case you have never heard them, the recordings by Gram Parsons and Emmylou Harris, as well as "So Rebellious a Lover" by Gene Clark and Carla Olson. You could then move on to George and Tammy, Porter and Dolly, etc. Have Fun!

This one's highly recommended, by the way.