

Tom Prasada-Rao
"Christmas in the Ashram"
Ahimsa Acoustics
Review by Greg Forest

Tom Prasada-Rao produced this gem in his living room with the help of Lucy the cat and Romeo the dog who you can hear on the tracks if you listen carefully.

With the help of Bil Wolf mastering the release, this is truly a bare bones sonic gem worthy of your ears.

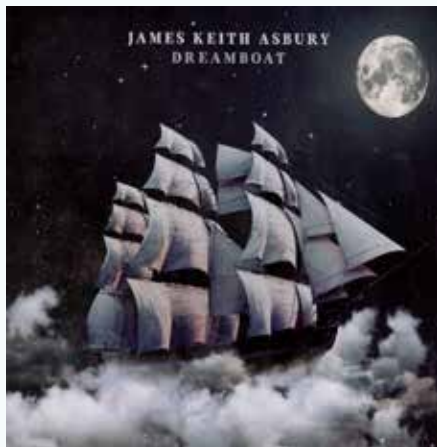
Tom, who is well known in Kerrville Folk Festival circles, has squeezed 15 great songs onto this CD. The songs are primarily written by Tom with a few covers from other great writers such as Jackson Browne and some traditional Christmas songs.

But this CD isn't all about Christmas. Tom gifts us with love songs and songs about family and tradition. *Christmas in the Ashram*, the title cut, is a hilarious tribute to a multi-cultural holiday.

Tom has found new love but his older song, *That's What Love Can Do* displays his passion for passion.

As with all of Tom's music, this CD is a tribute to the power of love that can bring you to joy and redemption.

Tom is on the web at tomprasadorao.com.



James Keith Asbury
"Dreamboat"
Produced by James Keith Asbury
Review by Greg Forest

Hill Country music fans are familiar with James Keith "Jake" Asbury. He is found often in residence at the Roddy Tree in Ingram when not in Austin.

Jake's been making milestones in his career lately with one tour of Europe under his belt in 2017 and another shaping up for late spring 2018.

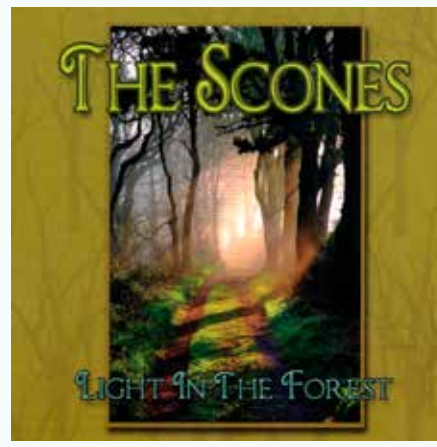
This CD is primarily rock/pop music but with a lot of twists

The CD kicks off with the ethereal title track, *Dreamboat* a tune about - you guessed it - dreams. Another great cut is *Desire* a funky blues-tinged love song with a cajun touch of accordion.

Some of the regions best players have Jake's back injecting tons of talent into the mix.

A bit of theatrical Roma quirkiness steps onto the stage with *Hector the Inspector* where violin (Caleb Carr) and accordion spice things up. A great CD by a rising Texas talent. Put your ears to it! You'll be glad you did.

Jake's site: jameskeithmusic.com



The Scones
"Light in the Forest"
Produced by Rick Stockton
& Helen Highwater
Neuf-Angled Records
Review by Greg Forest

Texas denizens well known around Austin and the Kerrville Folk Festival, and currently on the western slope of the Rockies, the Scones music and vibe revolves around Rick Stockton and Helen Highwater, long time partners and multi-instrumentalists who bring both thought and great chops to this musical endeavor.

Light in the Forest brings 11 original songs, all penned by Stockton, to your ears. This is a genre bender of a CD that mixes rock-n-roll, back beat R&B, bluegrass, blues and a couple tunes I can't find a box to put them into.

My personal favs are *Make It Happen*, that's reminds us we are empowered to control our lives and *Color of Your Love* which reminds me of the best of Timbuk 3. As the liner notes say, "If love comes in colors, what color would you be?"

Get in tune with the Scones at their web site at sconesmusic.com.



B. Sterling
"Searching Through the Changes"
Produced by B. Sterling

Review by Greg Forest

I was at a friend's birthday party not long ago when from the stage I heard a solo artist playing on the band's break. B Sterling grabbed my ears immediately.

This CD reflects the songwriting skills Sterling has obviously put a lot of talent, thought and time into.

A stand out tune for me is *Beginnings of Things* that has an easy loping beat and provides a flow chart of new love in a song filled with metaphors and a great example of how finely honed Sterling's songs are.

B. Sterling is working out of Austin these days although I expect to see appearances from him across the Hill Country in the near future.

It's always a treat for me to discover a new writer who has been hiding in plain site right here in the Hill Country.. *Searching Through the Changes* is a masterful example of the songwriting art. Listen to examples of Sterling's music on Heart Beat Radio.

B Sterling is online @ bsterlingmusic.com