

## CD Review

### 'The Living Mountain' by Jenny Sturgeon

Reviewed by Barry Guy

This is the second album by Scottish singer-songwriter Jenny Sturgeon exploring her love of the environment, ecology and the elements. It is inspired by Nan Shepherd's book '*The Living Mountain*' and Jenny's experience of growing up near, and walking in, the Cairngorms. The twelve songs take inspiration from the chapter titles of Nan's book; the lyrics tell of exploration, love, loss and wonder at the natural world from small scale mosses and moths to the wider landscape and ecosystem.

A very gentle, soothing album, with a recording of bird song made in the Cairngorms running throughout, that effectively portrays the essential beauty and grandeur of that area. The words and images are complemented by an instrumental accompaniment provided by Mairi Campbell on viola and vocals, Su-a Lee on cello, Grant Anderson on bass and vocals, and sound recordings from Jez Riley-French and Magnus Robb.

Jenny has also set up The Living Mountain grove with Scottish rewilding conservation charity 'Trees for Life', so you can buy a tree with your CD or LP to help offset some of the carbon involved in its production, from her website <https://www.jennysturgeonmusic.com/>.

Jenny's previous musical collaborations include writing and performing in the critically acclaimed alt-folk band *Salt House* and in the bird and migration inspired project, '*Northern Flyway*'. Her ecological credentials are further demonstrated by '*Ink & Wool*', the environmentally friendly art and design brand inspired by nature which she founded in 2017.

