

# CD REVIEW



## 'SEVEN'

### BY LIZZY HARDINGHAM

Reviewed by Sandra Lawes

Based right in the heart of Unicorn country, Lizzy Hardingham is a highly talented folk musician and songstress who is making a huge impact on the folk scene. She's had success in many local competitions including New Roots and Royston Young Artists as well as the Herts, Milkmaid Folk Club and Watford Folk Song songwriting competitions. She's also enjoyed considerable radio play nationally and 'across the pond'.

Released at the end of May 2020, the 'Seven' EP is a mix of traditional, a capella and self-penned songs all on the theme of the sea. In my opinion, this is by far Lizzy's best and most mature work to date. Her powerful, expressive voice is particularly well suited to these shanties and sea songs and original arrangements. She expertly shows her versatility in expressing different moods and tempos – and to my delight, I could hear every word of the lyrics.

Lizzy's stirring vocals are supported by quality contributions from Ellie McCann (banjo and mandolin), Cian David (electric guitar) and Mark Gordon (percussion) who also did a magnificent job mixing and mastering the tracks.

Lizzy tells me that half of her family come from Merseyside and are keen supporters of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) – she is donating half of the proceeds from the album to this charity.

You will know some of the songs on the album like 'Rolling Down to Old Maui', 'South Australia' and 'Shenandoah', and may well have sung along with them at folk clubs and festivals – but Lizzy gives them a fresh treatment with captivating new arrangements. Other songs concern the way mankind has exploited the whale, the melting of a glacier and the mysterious Antarctic Ocean.

I found the album an absolute delight – high calibre musicianship, expressive vocals and a charming mix of rousing traditional songs and touching ballads. I can't wait to see Lizzy perform these great tracks live when life returns to 'normal'. In the meantime, like so many artists, she has lost a great deal of income due to the postponement and cancellations of her gigs. She is doing livestream concerts and you can find out more about these (and leave a donation if possible) and buy her excellent EP at [www.lizzyhardingham.com](http://www.lizzyhardingham.com). You can also find information about her at:

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/lizzyhardingham](http://www.facebook.com/lizzyhardingham)

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/lizzyhardinghammusic](http://www.instagram.com/lizzyhardinghammusic)

**Bandcamp:** [www.lizzyhardingham.bandcamp.com/album/dusk](http://www.lizzyhardingham.bandcamp.com/album/dusk)

