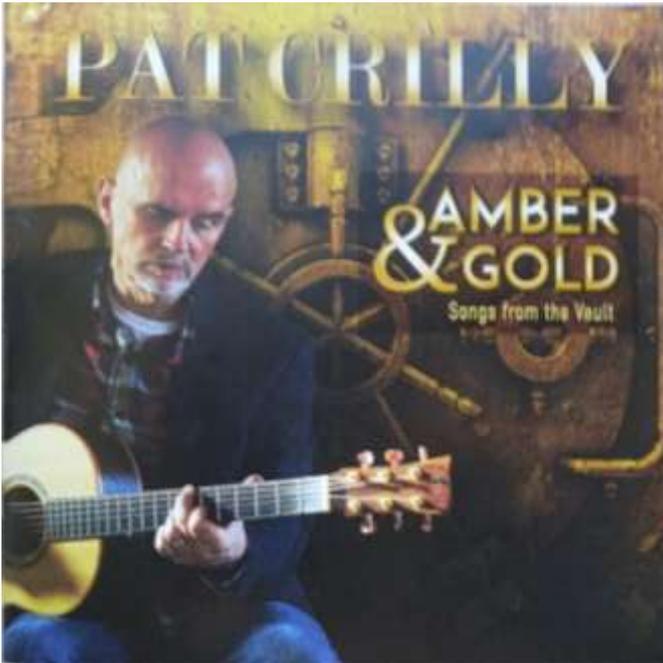


'Amber & Gold' (Songs from the Vault) by Pat Crilly

Reviewed by Carl Filby



I have seen Pat Crilly play at a number of venues over the last few years either side of Covid usually with one of his many musical collaborators and have always enjoyed their performances. This is different however, being what might be described as a 'retrospective' collection but with just Pat and his guitar and as he himself says, on the interesting and informative notes in the accompanying booklet, recorded live without overdubbing.

The effect of this is that there is much more emphasis on the lyrics which, when one is simply enjoying the music at a live gig, are sometimes overlooked.

I suppose that I should declare an interest at this point because Pat and friend(s) have played for me at a number of Royston MusicFests and provided the sound as well for a Gala Concert on one occasion. So, I am a little bit bias and already a fan. That said, this album opened up a new dimension to Pat's music for me as I focused so much more on the lyrics for the reasons given above.

It is a very poignant and personal collection and illustrates how good Pat's powers of observation and imagination actually are. Quite a few of the songs are well-known to me from Pat's live shows but they are given a new depth by their stripped back presentation here. 'Senegal', 'It's A Fine Line', 'Out On The Edge' and 'Irish Reels and Russian Roulette' will be very familiar to all Pat's fans but given a new dimension by this recording, and whilst I could already pick out some of the songs that are new to me as being very enjoyable I think they are probably best heard together as part of this collection. It's well worth putting aside an hour to sit down and listen properly to all these songs to get the full experience.

The CD is very nicely presented as well with the aforementioned booklet which provides all the lyrics and a few notes on the inspiration for the songs or the circumstance in which they were written.

In summary, if you are a Pat Crilly fan already I think you will love this and find something new in it. If not, then go and see him when you get the chance. He runs the Four Rivers Folk Club every 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in Hertford – here's a link: [Four Rivers Folk Club | Hertford | Facebook](#)