

'Unanswered' by Ward Knútur Townes

Reviewed by Carl Filby (Oct 2023)



Ward Knútur Townes came together when they took part in the Global Music March, a virtual music collaboration between 60 artists from 16 countries during the Covid lockdowns. Fortunately, they decided to continue and record this, their debut album, which was released on 6th October.

All three of the named artists are award-winning singer songwriters albeit from different backgrounds and countries. Lucy Ward already has four successful solo albums behind her and is joined by Adyn Townes, described as an alt-Indie artist based in Montreal, and Svavar Knútur a chart-topping musician in his Icelandic homeland.

I don't know what the individual artists sound like independently of this album but what stood out immediately for me were the beautiful vocal harmonies and the understated but entirely appropriate music for each of the 11 well-crafted songs that make up the content. The album cover informs us that all songs were written jointly by the trio with the exception of 'Seasons' written by Adyn (Andrew M L Brown) and 'Your Love Is Death To Me' written by Svavar.

Information on the instruments played by the band, (mainly guitars & synths) and the three accompanying musicians (bass, violin, viola, drums and more synths) can be found on the album sleeve but it is also well worth having a look at the poetic lyrics which can be found on the band's website - see below.

There are several stand out tracks which have an almost instant appeal for me including the opening track 'Astronaut'; the homage to Johnny Cash and his wife June Carter 'Seasons'; the quirky and beautifully sung 'Isn't It Funny'; 'Medusa' and the poem 'Orgar Brim' which is said to be set to traditional Icelandic vocal drones. Actually, I don't know why I bothered to list those tracks in particular because what is abundantly clear to me is that, in terms of quality, this is very much a homogeneous offering. I think I will soon enjoy it as an entire album, probably without favourites with a few more plays, though I will certainly be picking out some tracks to play on my radio show.

You can purchase a copy of the album and check out gig details and more information about the band on their website <https://wardknuturtownes.com/home>. They are about to pause halfway through a UK tour which will see them performing again during the second half of November.