**JAMIE SHEW / *EYES WIDE OPEN***

***REVIEWS***

**April 27, 2018**

**Midwest Record by Chris Spector**

**“A swinging thrush that knows how to deliver …she puts her own stamp on chestnuts, making them right at home next to her originals.  A solid treat for any jazz vocal fan.”**

<http://midwestrecord.com/MWR1358.html>

JAMIE SHEW/Eyes Wide Open:  Still pulling passion out of pain after losing her husband to cancer, this time out Shew surrounds herself with sidemen that were pals of the couple and everything swings while it’s restorative as well.  A swinging thrush that knows how to deliver the mix of songs here has a bunch of chestnuts that she puts her own stamp on making them right at home next to her originals.  A solid treat for any jazz vocal fan.

**May 4, 2018**

**JW Vibe by Jonathan Widran**

**“A heartfelt, life-affirming tribute…Eyes Wide Open is a testament to the beauty of true love and the timeless healing power of music.”**

<https://www.jwvibe.com/single-post/2018/05/03/JAMIE-SHEW-Eyes-Wide-Open>

Anyone who’s ever suffered a great loss – and that means all of us at some point – will find moving, inspiring and coolly swinging redemption in vocalist and songwriter Jamie Shew’s Eyes Wide Open – a heartfelt, life affirming tribute to her jazz-filled journey with her husband Roger, a respected bassist and music educator who died of a rare form of cancer in 2016. Fronting the tight four piece ensemble of jazz masters Larry Koonse (jazz electric and nylon string guitars), Joe Bagg (piano and Hammond B-3), Darek Oles (bass) and Jason Harnell (drums), the singer weaves a lovely, poignant tale of her jazz-filled journey with Roger.

Bookending the 13 track set with originals painting opposite moods (the lighthearted “Get Out of My Head,” the wistfully poetic title track), Shew draws from a unique well of well-known and offbeat tunes - including a Dori Caymmi gem, sung in Portuguese - to paint a complete portrait of the greatest of loves. Eyes Wide Open is a testament to the beauty of true love and the timeless healing power of music.

**May 14, 2018**

**Contemporary Fusion Reviews by Dick Metcalf**

**“Jazz vocals just do NOT get more inspiring … among the very best jazz vocals I’ve heard in a long time… simply stellar.”**

<http://contemporaryfusionreviews.com/inspiring-high-energy-jazz-vocals-jamie-shew-eyes-wide-open/>

Inspiring high energy jazz vocals Jamie Shew – EYES WIDE OPEN:  I’m telling you right now, folks, jazz vocals just do NOT get more inspiring that what Jamie has put together for her May 15, 2018 release… before I go through the highlights of her new album, I’d (most strongly) recommend that you watch the video below with many of the same players who are on the new release **a really intimate view of the performance and how it emerged; isn’t Jamie’s singing just full of life?**

**If “hip” & “extra cool” is your thing, you’re gonna’ love “**[The Flat Foot Floogie](https://jamieshewmusic.com/track/1473639/the-flat-foot-floogie?feature_id=45735)**“… the best word I can think of to describe her vocal wizardry on this piece is “bubbly”… no question but what this is one of my favorite jazz vocal tunes (yet) in 2018!**

**Her performance on Cole Porter’s “**[Easy To Love](https://jamieshewmusic.com/track/1473631/easy-to-love?feature_id=45735)**” is simply stellar, especially when you consider that it’s her vibrant tribute to her husband, Roger Shew, who she sadly lost to cancer; her musical partners – Larry Koonse, Guitar Joe Bagg, Piano and Hammond B3 Organ Darek Oles, Bass Jason Harnell, Drums – help her to make this one come ALIVE!**

**Jamie composed the title track, “**[Eyes Wide Open](https://jamieshewmusic.com/track/1473661/eyes-wide-open?feature_id=45735)**“, which also closes the album, and is a perfect segue to “move on with new intention”… a truly beautiful song that I predict will hit the charts & stay there for a long time.**

**It wasn’t difficult at all to decide what my personal favorite of the thirteen songs is… the mellow and haunting arrangement on Billie Holiday’s “**[Detour Ahead](https://jamieshewmusic.com/track/1473651/detour-ahead?feature_id=45735)**” is simple yet beautiful, and it’s among the very best jazz vocals I’ve heard in a long time.**

**I give Jamie and her musical cohorts a MOST HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, with an “EQ” (energy quotient) rating of 4.99 for this fantastic (& very collectible) CD.**

**May 18, 2018**

**Musical Memoirs by Dee Dee McNeil**

**“One thing that is immediately obvious is that Jamie Shew can ‘Swing’ the music… I can hear a lot of Ella Fitzgerald’s influence… she impresses me with her adlib and improvisational ability.”**

<https://musicalmemoirs.wordpress.com/2018/05/>

One thing that is immediately obvious is that Jamie Shew can ‘Swing’ the music. Her first tune is an original composition, complete with syncopated rhythms and a strong Swing-feel. It’s titled, “Get Out Of My Head” and features Joe Bagg laying down a memorable organ solo and it’s propelled by the strong, distinctive drums of Jason Harnell.

The arrangement on the intro to “Easy To Love” is unusual and really doesn’t add to the vocalist’s rendition of this familiar Cole Porter song. However, when the band brings the repetitious groove back at the end of this song to feature the drum solos, I admit that tied the whole thing together. I can hear a lot of Ella Fitzgerald’s influence in this vocalist’s style and presentation. I learned, from the enclosed press, she’s a proficient pianist. However, she doesn’t play on this recording, although she studied jazz piano at Washington State University and earned her Master’s degree in Vocal Performance/Jazz Studies at Western Michigan University. For the past fifteen years, Jamie Shew has been working the Los Angeles jazz circuit with her husband of twenty years, Roger Shew, a proficient bassist. Sadly, Jamie lost her beloved soulmate to Cancer. This album is a musical tribute to him and their relationship over their two decades of love. “The Answers Are You,” written by Pat Metheny and Roger Shew, seems to summarize a patch of her life with loving lyrics that celebrate being a lost soul and discovering completion when merging your life with another. Larry Koonse sounds inspired on his guitar. The melody tests Shew’s soprano range with a melody that dips and dives. “Detour Ahead” is full of emotional nuances and showcases Jamie Shew’s warm tones. On “Thou Swell,” Jamie Shew takes the liberty to scat the Rodgers and Hart tune and impresses me with her adlib and improvisational ability.

Musically, Shew has contracted a group of L.A.’s prized jazz cats, so the tracks are sensitive and well-played. This vocalist is generous to her musicians, giving them time to shine in the spotlight of their own solos and individual talents. Over the years, these musicians have been friends and bandmates with Jamie and Roger Shew. Consequently, there is a musical camaraderie on this recording that is palpable.

**May 22, 2018**

**The Jazz Page by Glenn Daniels**

**“A gift of healing and love… joyous, humorous and reflective with wonderfully arranged compositions… Though the recording emerges from depths of loss, it is nothing less than a colorful tribute to life.”**

<http://thejazzpage.com/album/jamie-shew-eyes-wide-open/>

Singer Jamie Shew’s ***Eyes Wide Open*** emerges from the loss of her husband Roger as a gift of healing and love. Her second studio production is a journey through full range of emotions involved in any relationship. It’s a work that is joyous, humorous and reflective with wonderfully arranged compositions. The selections of standards by Cole Porter, Rodgers and Hart, Charlie Haden, Pat Metheny and T.S. Monk reflect the range of moods embodied in this outstanding work. Shew also penned two of the album’s excellent compositions. The musician lineup on the project is top-notch, with Larry Koonse on guitar, Joe Bagg on piano and Hammond organ, Darek Oles on bass and Jason Harnell on drums. Though the recording emerges from depths of loss, it is nothing less than a colorful tribute to life.

**May 25, 2018**

**Bebop Spoken Here by Ann Alex**

**“Her voice on the CD is warm and inviting, what I’d call honey-toned…literally a labour of love, Jamie Shew uses song to tell the story of her 20 year relationship with her husband, bass player Roger Shew… She traces their lives together in music, with good taste and a lack of sentimentality, and even manages to look to the future.”**

<http://lance-bebopspokenhere.blogspot.com/2018/05/cd-review-jamie-shew-eyes-wide-open.html#more>

‘This one’s a cracker’ said Lance as he handed over the CD, and it certainly is. Yet I reckon that it’s a miracle that it was ever made, as it’s literally a labour of love. Jamie Shew uses song to tell the story of her 20 year relationship with her husband, bass player Roger Shew, who sadly died of cancer. She traces their lives together in music, with good taste and a lack of sentimentality, and even manages to look to the future.

She met Roger at Washington State University, where she studied jazz piano. After graduation the couple married and went to Michigan, where they gained Master’s degrees in Jazz Studies, eventually moving to LA, where they became part of the jazz scene. Jamie had always sung, and her voice on the CD is warm and inviting, what I’d call honey-toned. She chose songs which she’d always liked, but now they took on new meanings. She also includes two of her own compositions: *Get Out Of My Head* and *Eyes Wide Open.*

The instrumentalists are of course well up to the mark, and Ms Shew wisely allows them lots of soloing. Larry Koonse’s fine guitar work on *The Answers Are You* reminded me of the intricate melodies of Bach’s music, and the track is actually a Metheny tune, to which Roger Shew wrote the lyrics. Cole Porter’s *Easy To Love* shows skilled phrasing from our singer and many instrumental repetitions of the last song line. *The Flat Foot Floogie* is a song about a dance, performed with fun and wordless singing. (This dance was actually featured in a recent television programme about tap dancing – I’m starting to wonder if BSH has a secret contact at the BBC).

*Mountain Greenery* is included to remind Ms Shew of the camping trip to the mountains, when Roger proposed.*Easy Living* is slow and relaxing to suit the tune: *You Don’t Know What Love Is* begins with a folky Russian sound, and is played faster than you’d expect for a sad song, but it works. The other tracks are: *Detour Ahead; Thou Swell; First Song (For Ruth); O Cantador: Reflections.*

**May 25, 2018**

**Sounds of Timeless Jazz by Paula Edelstein**

**“Jamie has a lovely voice and should attract more attention as her fans begin to appreciate her skills and ability to tell a story.”**

<http://www.soundsoftimelessjazz.com/reviews.html>

Vocalist Jamie Shew covers such favorites as Cole Porter’s “Easy To Love”, the Rainger/Robin classic “Easy Living,” and “You Don’t Know What Love Is” in arrangements that shift the focus from their original moods to a modernized concept for 21st century audience. This music on this recording is reminiscent of the kind heard in a quaint nightclub, piano bar or intimate private setting where the audience is keen to her moving interpretations. Jamie has a lovely voice and should attract more attention as her fans begin to appreciate her skills, ability to tell a story and her ability to keep you interested in her projects.

**June 4, 2018**

**Amazon by Grady Harp**

**“Intimate yet big sounds, this lady can sing and communicate like few others out there. Every track is memorable.”**

[https://www.amazon.com/review/R2JTS1GOVRATGH/ref=pe\_1098610\_137716200\_cm\_rv\_eml\_rv0\_rv](https://www.amazon.com/review/R2JTS1GOVRATGH/ref%3Dpe_1098610_137716200_cm_rv_eml_rv0_rv)

**June 14, 2018**

**Republic of Jazz**

[**http://republicofjazz.blogspot.com/2018/06/jamie-shew-eyes-wide-open-2018.html**](http://republicofjazz.blogspot.com/2018/06/jamie-shew-eyes-wide-open-2018.html)

**June 15, 2018**

**Rifftides by Doug Ramsey**

**““Can she sing?” Meaning:  Is she in tune? Does she phrase well? Does she have good time? I have listened twice to Ms. Shew’s album and watched several of her Youtube videos. She can sing… Ms. Shew wrote the title song of her new album, Eyes Wide Open, to express the importance of moving on from even the most discouraging losses. She seems to have done that.”**

<https://www.artsjournal.com/rifftides/2018/06/meeting-jamie-shew.html>

Having heard an advance CD by Jamie Shew, a singer new to me, I asked the trumpeter Bobby Shew if she is related to him. He followed his answer—No— with a question of his own, the one that musicians invariably ask about singers: “Can she sing?”

Meaning:

• Is she in tune?
• Does she phrase well?
• Does she have good time?

I have listened twice to Ms. Shew’s album and watched several of her *Youtube* videos. She can sing.

The CD, *Eyes Wide Open*, finds her in the company of players from the top tier of Los Angeles musicians: Larry Koonse, guitar; Joe Bagg, piano and organ; Darek Oles (Oleszkiewicz), bass; and Jason Harnell, drums. Gary Fukushima’s liner notes trace her history— piano lessons when she was a child, advanced music degrees, marriage to bassist Roger Shew, motherhood, then the loss of her husband to cancer in 2016 when he was 42.

The repertoire includes two of her songs, several cherished standards that include a superb version of “Detour Ahead,” and assured delivery of Thelonious Monk’s “Reflections” with Jon Hendricks’ lyric. There is a rare cover of Slim Gaillard’s 1945 “Flat Foot Floogie” in which she and Koonse have a unison line that sounds enough like something Charlie Parker might have played that I had to investigate whether there’s a hidden alternate take of the 1945 Gaillard recording. There doesn’t seem to be.

Ms. Shew wrote the title song of her new album, *Eyes Wide Open*, to express the importance of moving on from even the most discouraging losses. She seems to have done that.

**June 18, 2018**

**Jazz Weekly by George Harris**

**“Cleverly re-arranged jazz standards….A nice creator of moods.”**

<https://www.jazzweekly.com/2018/06/voices-of-creativitycathy-segal-garcia-the-jazz-chamber-jamie-shew-eyes-wide-open-tiffany-austin-unbroken/>

Clear Broadway toned Jamie Shew joins with Angelenos Larry Koonse/g, Joe Bagg/p-B3, Darek Oles/b and Jason Harnell/dr for a mix of cleverly re-arranged jazz standards. She is clear while telling a story with Oles on the starry “First Song (For Ruth)” and luminous on a supple “You Don’t Know What Love Is.” Koonse’s acoustic guitar glistens on the sweet and soft take of Pat Metheny’s “The Answers Are You” while delivering a lullaby on her own title track. A hip “The Flat Foot Floogie” is fun and bluesy while “Mountain Greenery” is cute and coy. A nice creator of moods.

**July 6, 2018**

**The Jazz Owl by Travis Rogers, Jr.**

**“Jamie Shew sings of her love and her loss but she never turns maudlin in the midst of the melancholy. She brings hope to the heart-broken. The album was born in tragedy but ends with self-reflection and self-revelation. And that is never a bad thing.”**

<http://travisrogersjr.weebly.com/music-reviews/jamie-shew-sings-with-eyes-wide-open>

[0 Comments](http://travisrogersjr.weebly.com/music-reviews/jamie-shew-sings-with-eyes-wide-open#comments)

Jamie Shew lost her husband to cancer and she found herself without words to say. But she could sing what was in her heart and she could make us at least begin to understand what her husband Roger meant to her. Their love must have been profound and her grief must be just as deep.

Her musical training goes back to early childhood (age four, according to her mother) and her musicianship plays heavily in her vocal talent and technique. There is something heart-warming in the heart-breaking history of her life with Roger. In fact, lyrically speaking, Roger is the hidden hero of the narrative – the unseen electron that leaves such a discernible path in the cloud-chamber of Jamie’s heart. We never get to know him but we know his effect on her.

Helping her tell the story are pianist and Hammond B3 organist Joe Bagg, guitarist Larry Koons, bassist Darek Oles, and drummer Jason Harnell. These guys can be light-hearted, and even whimsical, or they can be dark and brooding and they do it all with great respect and a depth of their own.

The album opens with Jamie’s own compostion, *Get Out of My Head*. It has a unique wit and wisdom in it *sitz im leben.* It features Bagg on the B3 and presents Jamie in her Jazziest delivery. While Jamie arranges all of the pieces on the album, she composed two of them. Her arrangement of Cole Porter’s *Easy to Love* is splendid and her enunciation of certain phrases is especially cool. When she says *We’d be so grand* there is an almost over-statement of the GR sound in grand that made me take notice. She did that several times. She hits the R like Ella Fitzgerald did. And I dig it.

In Pat Metheny’s *Question and Answer*, Roger wrote the lyrics and changed the title to *The Answers Are You* and changes the feel of the song to one of tenderness. The result is beautiful.

*Mountain Greenery* (Rodgers and Hart) is a dizzy swing that recalls happier times and the band brings a smile with their touch. The lyrics speak of the headiness of a mountain trip where Roger proposed to Jamie.

It’s followed by *Easy Living* Rainger and Robin) and speaks so sweetly of being in love with the one you are destined to be with. *There’s nothing in life but you…but you* is in the last line of the song.

Then the modd begins to shift with *You Don’t Know What Love Is*. Larry Koonse turns in some cool work with his solos. Joe Bagg follows up on piano with an excellent turn of his own while Oles and Harnell play underneath with their own ear-catching rhythms.

*O Cantador* is sung in the original Poruguese – maybe the most beautiful language in the world. The lyricism of her vocals and that of Bagg’s piano is a thing of true beauty. Koonse’s nylon-stringed acoustic guitar sits so well in this frame.

Monk’s *Reflections* (lyrics by Jon Hendricks) is bound to please. It is a straight Jazz tune but with lyrics/vocals that are so well-suited to Jamie and her experiences, especially with Roger. *In this eternal waltz, we all just keep dancing.*

The album concludes with Jamie’s original *Eyes Wide Open.* *Where do you start when your world starts to crumble?* She asks from the start. And she concludes with *I choose skies. I choose stars. I choose light. I choose Love.*

Make no mistake. Jamie Shew sings of her love and her loss but she never turns maudlin in the midst of the melancholy. She brings hope to the heart-broken. The album was born in tragedy but ends with self-reflection and self-revelation. And that is never a bad thing.

**July 9, 2018**

**All About Jazz by C. Michael Bailey**

**“A grandly conceived program of thoughtfully selected songs that brings a loving and passionate integrity to the whole of Eyes Wide Open.”**

<https://www.allaboutjazz.com/seven-women-plus-three-2018--part-vii-allegra-levy-by-c-michael-bailey.php>

Art is not conceived in a vacuum and need not stand on its own, independent of all else, for validity and necessity, as New Criticism would design. The essence of being human is the *story* behind being human. Musical polymath Jamie Shew takes the deliberate opportunity to use art to express what cannot simply be told but must also be experienced. *Eyes Wide Open*. The release describes in music her life with husband, bassist and educator Roger Shew, who passes away much too young from cancer. We humans often do not know where to put those inconvenient, unwelcome, and always unavoidable things too large and painful to put into quick perspective. Shew decided to weave the entire experience, the good and bad, into thirteen-part life suite, meaningfully composed and chosen.

Leading a guitar-fronted quartet consisting of guitarist Larry Koonse, keyboardist Joe Bagg, bassist Darek Oles and drummer Jason Harnell, Shew crafts an extended story, one easier to understand as it is performed. She bookends the collection with original compositions, the bright and playful "Get Out of My Head" and the beautifully brutal reality check evolution to hope of the title composition. Between these is a grandly conceived program of thoughtfully selected songs that brings a loving and passionate integrity to the whole of *Eyes Wide Open*. A jaunty "Easy to Love," a humorous (but respectful) "The Flat Foot Floogie," Pat Metheny's "Question & Answer" transformed into "The Answers are You" by Roger Shew's lyrics written for his her are all couched in an intensely personal significance for the couple. A skipping "Thou Swell," a Broadway-tinged "Mountain Greenery," and an organ trio "Easy Living" hold down the center of a fading conception of perfection well remembered.

**August 5, 2018**

**Jazz Life Japan by Keizo Takada**

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**August 5, 2018**

**Indie Voice by Robert Leggett**

“An amazing selection of songs… well written and perfectly performed… She finds the joy in those memories and translates them into what could very well become jazz standards for a future generation.”

<http://www.lamusiccritic.com/indie_voice_blog/get-it-or-forget-it-rachel-sage-reloaded-norway-jamie-shew-tammie-shannon-shaunt-avakian/>

**Winter 2018 Publication**

**Washington State University Magazine by Kristina Ploeger**

[**https://magazine.wsu.edu/2018/11/05/eyes-wide-open/**](https://magazine.wsu.edu/2018/11/05/eyes-wide-open/)

Jamie Shew’s *Eyes Wide Open* holds something for every vocal jazz enthusiast. With two stellar compositions and eleven superb arrangements of her own, the listener has many
delights from which to choose. Although Jamie has had all the skills, passion, intellect, and talent to make this album a reality for many years (hence the wealth of tracks), it was only after her husband lost his fight with cancer that she came to see herself as more of a professional performer—and one who could explore human emotions in the uplifting context of joy and healing.

Her fellow musicians on the album include some of Southern California’s finest. Guitarist Larry Koonse (a personal hero of Jamie’s late husband) has a long history of playing with such great singers as Cleo Laine, Mel Torme, Karrin Allyson, Luciana Souza, Natalie Cole, and Tierney Sutton. Koonse, pianist and Hammond B3 player Joe Bagg, bassist Darek Oles, and drummer Jason Harnell expertly interpret Shew’s arrangements and compositions. And expertly, too, go the vocals.

On “Easy to Love” and “You Don’t Know What Love Is,” Jamie’s 7/8 grooves flow so effortlessly that the lyrics are brought out in a very natural way. The straight-ahead swing tunes “The Flat Foot Floogie,” “Thou Swell,” “Reflections,” and Jamie’s composition “Get Out of My Head,” clearly demonstrate her virtuosic skills in a variety of tempos. Ballads “Detour Ahead,” “Easy Living,” and “First Song (For Ruth),” though vastly different, are united in Jamie’s easy delivery and the comfort they bring. My favorite interpretation by Jamie is the New Orleans street beat arrangement of “Mountain Greenery” with great interplay between guitar and piano.

Saving the best for last, though, Jamie’s composition “Eyes Wide Open” reminds one of a haunting Sondheim ballad that gives the listener an opportunity to examine loss within the confines of beauty and affirmation. All the song’s unexpected directions unite perfectly to create a cohesive, emotional journey, ending the album with, “I choose light. I choose love.”

*I* will choose to listen to Jamie Shew’s *Eyes Wide Open* again, and again.

**Winter 2018 Publication DJM 243**

**(Dutch) Dr. Jazz Magazine by Frank van Nus**

Vocaliste Jamie Shew zong haar compositie Eyes Wide Open slechts één keer live, en ze gaf aan dat dat meteen de laatste keer zou zijn. Shew beschrijft in het lied hoe haar echtgenoot, bassist Roger Shew, haar liet beloven dat ze de draad van haar leven weer zou oppakken, een week voordat hij op 42-jarige leeftijd zou overlijden aan kanker.

Alle nummers op deze plaat zijn op één of andere manier verweven met herinneringen aan haar man, maar toch is het geen sentimenteel in memoriam geworden. Ruim twee jaar later durft Shew weer vooruit te kijken; het in eigen beheer produceren van deze cd lijkt onderdeel te zijn van het helingsproces. Jamie Shew zingt met een helder, bijna zorgeloos timbre, en haar timing en intonatie suggereren dat ze ook de spil van elke eersteklas vocal group zou kunnen zijn. Daarbij wordt ze bovendien begeleid door een uitstekende band. De opnamebalans is niet helemaal naar mijn smaak - de drums bijvoorbeeld zijn te gedetailleerd uitgemixt - maar dat is mijn enige kanttekening. Shew meldde recent dat ze met deze cd zelfs in de race zit naar de 61e editie van de Grammy Awards in februari 2019.

Translation:

Vocalist Jamie Shew sang her composition Eyes Wide Open only once live, and she indicated that that would be the last time. Shew describes in the song how her husband, bass player Roger Shew, promised her that she would pick up the thread of her life, a week before he would die of cancer at the age of 42.

All songs on this record are in one way or another interwoven with memories of her husband, yet it has not become sentimental in memoriam. More than two years later, Shew dares to look forward again; the self-production of this CD seems to be part of the healing process. Jamie Shew sings with a clear, almost carefree timbre, and her timing and intonation suggest that she could also be the pivot of any first-class vocal group. In addition, she is accompanied by an excellent band. The recording balance is not quite to my taste - for example, the drums have been blended out too detail - but that is my only comment. Shew recently reported that this CD is even in the race to the 61st edition of the Grammy Awards in February 2019.

**No date or reviewer listed**

**The Jazz Page**

**https://thejazzpage.com/album/jamie-shew-eyes-wide-open/**

Singer Jamie Shew’s ***Eyes Wide Open*** emerges from the loss of her husband Roger as a gift of healing and love. Her second studio production is a journey through full range of emotions involved in any relationship. It’s a work that is joyous, humorous and reflective with wonderfully arranged compositions. The selections of standards by Cole Porter, Rodgers and Hart, Charlie Haden, Pat Metheny and T.S. Monk reflect the range of moods embodied in this outstanding work. Shew also penned two of the album’s excellent compositions. The musician lineup on the project is top-notch, with Larry Koonse on guitar, Joe Bagg on piano and Hammond organ, Darek Oles on bass and Jason Harnell on drums. Though the recording emerges from depths of loss, it is nothing less than a colorful tribute to life.