

DESERT BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION – TUSCON, AZ

SISTER SADIE

Pinecastle Records 2016

Review by Marilyn Ryan Hulbert

You, who have been reading my reviews all these many years, are aware of the fact that I look for the WOW factor. I hunt for the album that makes my heart beat to the rhythms and at the same time makes me belt out the songs while I am in the car, or washing the dishes, or on the floor doing sit-ups (not kidding). I grab my guitar or mandolin and try to play along and sing harmony. Heaven on earth!

Here it is folks! All women - all fabulous and amazing women in one bluegrass package. SISTER SADIE is Dale Ann Bradley, playing guitar and singing lead on 4 of the tracks and harmony vocals throughout. Voted female vocalist of the year five times by IBMA, and also taking this award from the Grand Ole Opry and the Ryman Auditorium, I can happily say that other folks agree with me. I loved her the first time I heard her and think of her as the "bluegrass darling".

Dale Ann sings lead on the first song "Unholy Water" - a minor key, mountain tune about moonshine whiskey. "Quenching the thirst of the damned".

Her next lead vocal is "Look What I'm Trading for a Mansion". Then "All I Can Do". All I can do to keep from falling in love with you. Uptempo - great! The 12th and final song is also sung by Dale Ann - "Blood Red and Goin' Down". We love a good southern murder ballad!

Tina Adair is playing guitar, mandolin and singing lead on the familiar "Don't Let Me Cross Over". Deanie Richardson plays a heart wrenching fiddle intro. "Now Forever's Gone", where you can hear Gina Britt's wonderful banjo rolls, and Tina's fine mandolin playing. Tina's voice is powerful and bluesy. Then she sings the 9th song - a song called "Not this Time". Tina's last song on the album is "Mama's Room" written by Harley Allen.

Gena Britt plays banjo and guitar. She sings lead on "Don't Tell Me Stories" and "I May Be a Fool". Gena has won numerous IBMA awards and is a sought after session musician and vocalist.

"Ava's Fury" is the one instrumental - great to dance to - if you are a mountain clogger!!

Deanie Richardson plays fiddle and also mandolin and guitar, is a teacher and a very experienced musician who has been on the road with such folks as Vince Gill, Bob Seger, Holly Dunn and the Chieftains.

Beth Lawrence plays acoustic bass and sings lead on "Falling".

Most important to me is the blending of voices, the music and the song choices... magic happens infrequently. Here you have some!!!

I was excited when I saw the album arrive, I was happy to have a radio show that very night and to be able to get a couple of songs on the air, and now I am so glad to tell you all about SISTER SADIE!