

STEPHANIE KIRKHAM

Sunlight On My Soul Reviews March 2006



Sunlight On My Soul
Stephanie Kirkham
SLK
★★★★★

Music news and reviews

Soulful survivor does it her way



Sunlight On My Soul Stephanie Kirkham signed a five-album deal back in 2001 with that much older label. She began to make a name for herself with her first two albums, but it was her third, *Sunlight On My Soul*, that really made her shine. It's a beautiful, soulful album that has won her a new label, SLK Music.

From the guitar jams of *Shine-Away* to the string-jazz of *How to Be a Hero*, *Sunlight On My Soul* is a special album that will completely impress and is packed with the kind of personally reflective songs that make an excellent album.

It also proves that Stephanie Kirkham is a soulful survivor who was able to wait for the best moment.

Truly Soul Searching

Steph
in the right direction



Sunny delight



Stephanie Kirkham.



Sunlight will make Stephanie a star

STEPHANIE KIRKHAM's second album is a real gem. It's a beautiful, soulful album that has won her a new label, SLK Music.

album of the week

STEPHANIE KIRKHAM
SUNLIGHT ON MY SOUL
★★★★★

I can't imagine what it must feel like to stake your life on making it big in the music industry, bag a record deal, release a critically acclaimed debut and then be dumped unceremoniously in pop limbo when the label you signed to gets closed down. The *Sunlight On My Soul* album is being released on her own label and it's the perfect showcase for Kirkham's sweet, childlike voice, which has been compared to the likes of The Sundays's Harriet Wheeler and The Cocteau Twins' Elizabeth Fraser. It's a charming record, a musical trinket box full of folktronics' madrigals, chirpy jazzy numbers, quirky celtic ballads and folk-pop songs full of sweet dreams and

Soul searching of a rising star

PRESTON-born songstress Stephanie Kirkham's new album *Sunlight on my Soul* has recently been released to glowing reviews.

Five star



STEPHANIE KIRKHAM's second album is a real gem. It's a beautiful, soulful album that has won her a new label, SLK Music.

STEPHANIE KIRKHAM: Sunlight On My Soul (SLK) 0000

Another new album by another new female singer-songwriter. So where's she heading? The mum-pop Dido market? Well, it's pop but too off-the-wall for Ms Armstrong. It's too jazzy for the K T Tunstall fan and yet too... mental to line her up behind Norah Jones and Katie Melua. Tracks like *Show Me What You're Made Of* and *Sunlight On My Soul* feature double bass and snare brush but it's like Bjork has succumbed to folk music. At times the twentysomething from Preston reveals a Madonna-like pop sensibility (check the airy harmonies on *Bonds Are Broken*) but it's the kookiness which is the most striking characteristic on her second album. The former floriist is closer to Kate Bush and Alanis Morissette. After jazz, the breathy beauty takes on folk and pop with panpipes, sitars, harps and even Irish fiddles. It could be the word-of-mouth success story of 2006.

Out now. SW

whatwomenwant



Stephanie Kirkham

Sunlight On My Soul is poetic and magical and quite unlike anything else you will hear this year. It's been on repeat play here at WWW since we received a review copy and we're sure you'll be hooked too! Get your copy at HMV, Amazon and all good record shops.

POP

STEPHANIE KIRKHAM
Sunlight On My Soul
SLK

Kirkham is the summery, soulful survivor of record company bust-ups that left her without a record deal. This country-tinged album is on a new label and features the English rose at a new peak. Her quirkiness is reminiscent of Kate Bush, her downbeat style recalls The Cure while her wailish vocals recall Harriet Wheeler. ★★★★★

KEY: ★★★★★ not to be missed. ★★★

"It could be the word-of-mouth success story of 2006." - Nottingham Evening Post

email: info@slkmusic.com
To hear songs from the album—launch the mp3 player at www.stephaniekirkham.com

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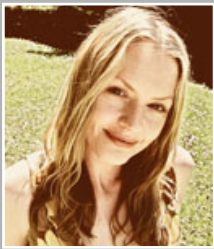
It's a charming record, a musical trinket box full of 'folktronica' madrigals, chirpy jazzy numbers, quirky celtic ballads and folky pop songs full of quiet drama and beguiling beauty. Standout tracks are the lovely 'Wash Away The Ashes', the wonderfully ditzzy 'Butterfly Song' and the beguiling 'All For Nothing.'

* * * *

Yorkshire Evening Post
Album of the week

..it's like Bjork has succumbed to folk music..reveals a Madonna-like pop sensibility..It could be the word-of-mouth success story of 2006. * * * *

Nottingham Evening Post



..Delicate and spare, with delicious lightness..clearly a singer-songwriter for whom 'art' is not a tag carelessly applied to her music, but an integral part of each song. This is so much more believable an album than Kate Bush's Aerial, and much more likeable as a result.

Adult Contemporary

This album is a joy to listen to.. Kirkham along with Gemma Hayes and Imogen Heap is flying the flag for UK singer-songwriters.

Ripple- Leicester Uni



Stephanie Kirkham rings sweet and vulnerable.. Backlit by spare piano and strings, her voice is soft but robust, bringing to mind Erin McKeown in all her finery.

Uncut Magazine

With a singing style that falls betwixt Joanna Newsom and Clannad, Kirkham's real talent lies in creating believable moods..

Word Magazine

the musical equivalent of smiling..

Subba-Cultcha



Kirkham has bounced back with a home-produced effort which blends the kookiness of Kate Bush with the jazzy-pop of Katie Melua. Sunlight On My Soul is a joyous collection which skips breezily between jazz and folky madrigals...

Daily Mail

..tempting as it is to knowingly smile and place her in the Vashti Bunyan camp of delicate folksters, Kirkham refuses to be tied down..her voice still retains that winning fragility and innocence..light and delicate but still imbued with strength..

the centrepiece of the record is a trio of songs that mine the rich seam of Seventies Celtic folk for inspiration ..

Arabic-styled melodies with traditional European instruments like the bouzouki, hurdy-gurdy and bodhran..

the title track, rounding out the album with a bang instead of a whisper, a bizarre mélange of sounds that somehow successfully melds together each of the album's themes and influences..gloriously luminous

Wears The Trousers

A delightful, spangly album of acoustics and intelligence ..she has a distinctive voice with a little catch in it, like Harriet Wheeler of The Sundays, and she writes the most delightful songs, never has there been a better nature-pop song than 'Hear The Blackbird'.

The Northern Echo.

'Sunlight On My Soul' is a real breath of fresh air, an organic beautifully realized set of songs with a voice to fall in love with ..you'll be amazed at her range and versatility..The vocals are so natural and soothing .. 'Bonds Are Broken' has a tribal and psychedelic intro which is both refreshing and a touch unsettling.

Designer Magazine

Stephanie is one of the best singers this country has come up with in a long time. Her new album, Sunlight On My Soul, is a joy to behold...

Jewish Telegraph

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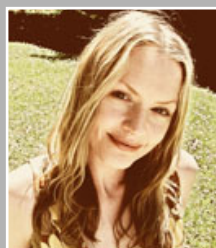


..uplifting melodies and poetic lyrics.. Kirkham's voice is balanced between Bjork and Dolores O'Riordan yet more enchanting than both..there is an aptly naïve and fluttering beauty about the opening 'Butterfly Song' while other standouts include 'Moving And Breathing' an irresistible confection of handclaps and gypsy violin.

Lincoln Chronicle

I recommend this album. It's really quite hypnotic.

Evening Times



There's a relaxing momentum to these folk tinged songs that are densely lyrical, every word is clearly pronounced, and the clarity of the crisp calm airy vocals are delightfully lackadaisical.. 'Bad Dream' has a Gaelic vibe to it and 'January Day' sounds like it's a show-stopping confessional taken from a musical.In fact it's a guaranteed winner!

Rock City



Her quirkiness is reminiscent of Kate Bush * * * *

Shropshire Star

..there's something of the naïf about her English rose sensibilities but it's all underpinned by a strong sense of melody that insinuates the songs into your mental bloodstream ..anyone in search of a New Age Katie Melua will be well content.

NetRhythms.co.uk



'Sunlight On My Soul' is a bolder progression than may have been expected..Kirkham casts a wide and varied net.. influences as diverse as lounge bar jazz and tudor madrigals.

Bournemouth Daily Echo

Boasting a really top-notch set of jazz vocals, Stephanie Kirkham's wonderfully breezy new single, 'Show Me What You're Made Of' is a genuinely intoxicating insight into what can be expected from the album, 'Sunlight On My Soul'.. this happy go-lucky jazz-pop classic boasts a hypnotic percussion, some excellent backing vocals and a generally satisfying style that marks Kirkham out as a considerable talent to watch.

Indie London

..calming and spiritual music; nurturing and satisfying for the soul..your heart is captured by her soothing and heartfelt songs.

Eastwood Advertiser

She is definitely my tip for the artist, who with a little luck, will really make it big this year. * * * * *

Portsmouth and District Post

..a fragile creature whose delicate manner sounds like she would be happier singing these fluttering folk songs to herself..

Q Magazine

..her waif-like vocal rooted in folk with a completely modern overhaul marks her out as the UK's answer to Suzanne Vega.. it all comes together in the title track, an extended jazz-pop piece and 'Bonds Are Broken', an Eastern mantra that easily could have graced a Madonna album.

icBirmingham.co.uk

Gentle and melodic, this little gem of a folk album grows on you with each song.. there's no mistaking her individuality.

Somerset County Newspapers

A delightful record with jazz, pop, folk and celtic influences, Sunlight On My Soul is a joyously reflective 11-track affair with Stephanie's naturally soothing voice sounding even more heavenly than it did on her 2003 debut. * * * * *

Cornish Guardian Review

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