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Disc Review: ‘When Kisses Take Prisoners’ by Christy Jefferson

Last year, chanteuse Christy Jefferson released a live album that was recorded at the venerable Philadelphia folk club The Tin Angel. She also won first prize in the Musselman Triathlon CD Compilation Competition with the song “Comin’ Round.”

This year, the Kutztown University graduate returns with her first studio album, “When Kisses Take Prisoners” (Terrinish Publishing).

Jefferson’s style is lush yet folksy, colored with a touch of art-rock that brings to mind a more accessible Jane Siberry or Kate Bush. Her songs are whimsical, sweet pop ballads. “Crossing Kisses,” for example, is about falling in love at a wine tasting. She sounds blissful as she sings, “rows and rows of grapes for wines turn kisses into love.”

References to kisses abound, including in the disc’s title and on the opener, “Little Kiss.” No doubt, the aura of being in love permeates the disc because Jefferson got married last year.

Besides the sweetness of her voice, Jefferson’s piano playing, particularly on “Jonathan Waiting,” is compelling and pleasing to hear.

The prize-winning “Comin’ Round” also is included on “Prisoners,” and the uplifting song seems to mirror Jefferson’s musical hopes as she sings: “I’m ready now for my turn to shine.”

www.christyjefferson.com