

Mary Bliven – Press Kit

To hear Mary Bliven sing is to hear a lifetime of training, emotion and soul laid bare. Her voice is a powerful, searing instrument through which she conveys her art and it memorably defines every track on her first album, 'On the Edge.'

About Mary Bliven

Mary has been singing since she could speak. She always had a creative passion for art and music as a child, which led to her many performances with the Encore Theater Company of Kingston, N.H. Her involvement in musical theater is where she began to hone her skills as a vocalist, actress and overall performer.

She attended the Hartford Conservatory after high school to pursue musical theater. While attending the conservatory she met her future husband Liam who was studying record production at the conservatory.

About the Mary Bliven Band

Mary and her husband Liam have put together a hard-hitting band that specializes in a blues-based sound. Mary's voice is a perfect match to Liam's soulful presence on lead guitar. Also lending a creative hand on drums is Aaron Goodro, who captures the perfect groove to bring the songs to life. Bill Burke holds down the low end on bass, while Eric Asvestas rounds out the group, tearing through Bliven's compositions on the harp. Together, they weave a rich tapestry of passionate and memorable melodies with thoughtful lyrics that will have you humming along long after you first hear them.

Mary Bliven has been performing her original music throughout New England since 2005. Mary also performed with blues legend James Montgomery and his band at the Yankee Homecoming festival in Newburyport, Mass. Her first demo was released in early 2006. The release of her first full-length disc came in 2007. The recording has begun to receive radio airplay in the U.S. and in Europe.

About the album: On the Edge

The album was recorded at Mixed Emotions Studio in Middleton, Mass., and engineered by Kenny Lewis (Freddie Jackson, Rich Schroder, Stryper). It was released in February of 2007. Joining the band for a few tracks is studio guitarist Marty Walsh (Supertramp, Leann Rimes, Neil Diamond, Eddie Money) and Hammond B3 player Ken Clark.

'On the Edge' has received radio airplay in New England, France, Germany, Argentina and on several Internet radio shows. The album has also been granted acceptance by college radio, as well. Just two weeks after being added to the regular rotation on the University of New Hampshire's radio station, 'On the Edge' cracked the WUNH Top 30 Adds chart for the week of June 12.

With topics ranging from loss and doubt to independence and redemption, 'On the Edge' hits hard from it's opening track, 'Whatcha Gonna Do,' to it's introspective, haunting conclusion, 'Broken.' The album was distributed through Borders Book stores in New England and is available on iTunes.

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CD Reviews: On The Edge:

Op de rand van pop en stevig klinkende blues, dat is het gebied waar Mary Bliven zich begeeft. Hier en daar is er ook een snuifje country door gemengd, zoals in "California", waar Mary klinkt als Shania Twain. Echtgenoot Liam is haar gitarist, een man die zich beperkt tot de essentie, iets wat wij bij Rootstime wel weten te appriëren. Vooral in het mooie "Free" dat sterk aan Bonnie Raitt herinnert, is Liam's solo "the right thing in the right place". Verder hebben we nog Eric Asvestas op harp, Aaron Goodro op drums en Bassist Bill Burke. In de subtielere songs vinden wij Mary op haar best, want daar kan die bluesy ondertoon het best tot zijn recht komen. Het grootste gedeelte van de composities zijn echter stevig rockende bluesy popsongs die nog het meest doen denken aan de ondertussen vergeten Pat Benatar. Mary Bliven is begenadigd met een sterke, krachtige stem waarvan we het best kunnen genieten in de afsluiter "Broken", waarop ze a cappella een sfeervol eindpunt neerzet achter een mooi debuut dat ons doet uitkijken naar haar opvolger, die naar onze bescheiden mening wat meer sfeervolle songs zoals "Free" mag bevatten, en iets minder ruige bluesrock achtige songs, maar dat is alleen maar een kleine randbemerking, want over deze zijn we meer dan tevreden!

(RON)

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English Translation:

On the edge of pop and robust sounding blues, that's the area where Mary Bliven is aiming for. Here and there also some little snuffs of country are added, like in "California", where Mary sounds like Shania Twain. Husband Liam is her guitar player, a man who limits himself to the essentials, something we at Rootstime appreciate very much. Especially in the beautiful "Free", which brings to mind Bonnie Raitt a lot, Liam's solo is just "the right thing in the right place". And then we also have Eric Asvestas on harp, Aaron Goodro on drums and bass player Bill Burke. We think Mary is at her best in the more subtle songs, because that allows her bluesy undertone to stand out best. The bigger part of their compositions however are solid rocking bluesy pop songs, which bring back memories of the already long forgotten Pat Benatar. Mary Bliven is gifted with a strong, powerful voice, which we enjoyed most at the final song "Broken", with which she closed (a cappella). This is a very attractive debut, which makes us eager to look out for the next one. This to our opinion, should contain some more songs like "Free", and a little less of the rugged blues-rock songs, but that's nothing more than a slight marginal note, because all together we are more than satisfied.

I've been listening to your new CD quite a lot and all I can say is "WOW!!!!". This is totally awesome! I was looking for a little inspiration - and ohhh boy, did this CD deliver in spades. I've actually picked up my electric guitar for the first time in over a year..... Mary has such a powerful voice - strong and very well controlled. The collaboration of the band was exceptional and the production was first rate. You are in constant rotation in my truck and my home. Everyone I've played this CD for has had the same general reaction - a drop of the jaw and tapping of the toes. Good old- fashioned blues and rock 'n roll with a refreshing and modern twist, I can't say enough about how impressive this is - a real scorcher front to back (even the slow burner). I'm really looking forward to seeing you guys live. - **Charles Ingalls**

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Reviews:

"1st class vocals, strong powerful group with stand out sound. Explosive vocals and excellent music" - Copperfield's (Boston, MA)

"Kicker!!! Ya gotta love that harp!
Blonde Pat Benatar??" - Jake

"It wasn't easy to find the place, but it was definitely worth the trip. Keep on writing and singing. YES! Great music - fantastic blues"

"Your show blew me away! I've been in the business a long time and you got it!! Great voice." - John McCarville (Kirkland Cafe)

"You Rock!!!" - Danika Fox
"Awesome! As good as Janis!"

"Thank God for another strong female Blues voice from the North East! In the tradition of Susan Tedeschi and Bonnie Raitt. People everywhere will identify with Mary Bliven's Working Mother's Blues attitude."

Lauren Towler & Patrick Lawrence
-Central Florida Blues Aficionados

Radio Play:

Program: Web Site:

WUNH 91.3FM <http://newserver.wunh.org/>

Mark Kerr's Blues Nation www.markkerrltd.com/bluesnation.htm

Kansas City Online Radio www.kconlineradio.com/

The Big Break music podcast www.thebigbreakpodcast.com

Radio Aria (France) www.radio-aria.net/aria/

ROOTSTIME (Belgium) www.rootstime.be

Good Time Blues (Argentina) <http://goodtimeblues.unlugar.com/index.html>

Beaub FM (France) www.beaubfm.com

Kaolin FM (France) www.kaolin-fm.com

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