

Kristina Olsen Discography

'Quiet Blue' For years Olsen's fans have been requesting a recording of her original blues. Now their wishes have been answered. Thirteen tracks all with a firm grounding in blues, from raucous and bawdy slide to tender acoustic jazzy blues to boogie blues mandolin, fans of Olsen's and blues in general will kick up their heels and do some serious smiling. Recorded live in studio in New South Wales with mandolinist Al Hughes and drummer Scott Hills the chemistry between the musicians is infectious. They especially chose to record all in the same room to preserve the live, you-are-there feeling. "Scott used his hands on the drum set sometimes or played with sticks on his legs to keep the volume levels right. That's something I miss in the world of studio recordings, with everyone isolated in separate booths. Recording this way you are reacting to each other," says Olsen.

'In Your Darkened Room' Olsen delves into the dark side with her moody tenth recording. She continues her musical partnerships with Australians Peter Grayling (cello) and George Butrumlis (accordionist) and adds atonal composer/fiddle player Paul Elliott and harmony singer Ed Johnson from the states. The songs stay in the ballad realm ranging from jazz to folk with topics that run the gamut from a tawdry affair in a run down hotel room to a prostitute telling the story of her life as she struggles to become a writer, pitying the men who must pay for companionship, to a song about the struggle for victims of abuse. Interspersed between the songs are instrumentals, from the delicate duet between cello and saxophone in 'Michael and Julia' to the demented '3 circus Three' (fiddle, accordion and cello) to a beautiful Galician waltz on concertina fiddle, mandolin and cello.

'All Over Down Under' captures Kristina Olsen live in concert with her trio during a March 2001 Australian tour. The American multi-instrumentalist teams up again with Australia's favorite cellist/mandolinist Peter Grayling and welcomes virtuoso Australian accordionist George Butrumlis to their musical partnership. This live recording contains nine new songs and three new instrumentals as well as spoken tracks and some previously recorded favorites. It was recorded in three quintessential Australian halls: the packed community Drill Hall in tropical Mullumbimby, the graceful old Malaney Town Hall in Queensland and a state of the art recording studio (complete with live audience) in Melbourne Victoria.

'The Truth of a Woman' was released in Aug'99 and was was #1 in surveyed folk radio airplay in November '99. It is a studio recording with a bonus live track (The Big O). Olsen on guitar, steelbody slide guitar, concertina, hammered dulcimer and voice. Grayling adds cello, mandocello, mandolin, and harmony vocals to nine of the tracks. 'The Truth of a Woman' includes nine Olsen originals including an instrumental. All the songs/compositions are by Kristina except Rainy Night in Chinatown and Big O.

'Duet' was released in Australia in March '98 and is a duet between American Kristina Olsen (on guitar, steelbody slide guitar, piano, concertina, sax and vocals) and Australian Peter Grayling (on cello, mandocello and harmony vocal). All but three of the tracks were recorded in a studio without over-dubbing; the other three tracks are taken from a live concert.

'Live From Around the World' was released in spring '97 on Philo/Rounder records and showcases Kristina Olsen performing in Scotland, New Zealand and Australia as well as home in her native America, in intimate folk clubs and at huge festivals. Most of the tracks are Kristina solo, but a few musical friends (such as Nina Gerber and Al Pettitway) show up on four tracks. Also included are some of her humorous stories and introductions.

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'Hurry on Home' was released in spring '95 on Philo/Rounder Records and was produced by Nina Gerber. It is a studio recording and has some of California's finest acoustic players working with Kristina (such as Barbara Higbie, Cary Black, Mike Marshall and Nina Gerber). Most of the tracks are completely acoustic, but there are two electric tracks as well.

'Love, Kristina' was released in spring '93 on Philo/Rounder Records and was produced by Nina Gerber. It is a studio recording and has some of the West Coast's finest acoustic player working with Kristina (such as Barbara Higbie, Cary Black, Laurie Lewis, Joe Craven, Teresa Trull and Nina Gerber.) All of the tracks are completely acoustic, some of the tracks have percussion.

'Kristina Olsen' was released in spring '92 on Philo/Rounder Records and was produced by Nina Gerber. It is a studio recording and has some of California's finest acoustic players working with Kristina (such as Barbara Higbie, Cary Black, and Nina Gerber). It is a completely acoustic CD with a bit of percussion.