

REVIEWS OF CAROL MARKSTROM'S ALBUMS:

REVIEWS OF DESERT ROSE (award-winning 2018 Album):

<http://countrymusicnewsinternational.blogspot.de/2018/04/cd-review-carol-markstrom-desert-rose.html>

“There is so much incredibly beautiful music in America today that doesn't get heard it just blows me away. I'm not talking about amateurs making a CD for the grandkids. I'm talking about incredibly gifted artists that work with 'love' in their hearts for the music they write, record, and perform. Carol Markstrom is one of those artists. However she's breaking down doors and walls getting her work heard. She has a very unusual and beautiful voice that 'fits' her choice of music perfectly. She also has the 'ear' to know exactly what she wants to accomplish, and to do this she uses the best musicians in America. My very first shiver of incredulity was listening to Charlie McCoy play his harmonica on "Granite Gap," one of the few songs on this album that Carol Markstrom did not write. I have to get the musicians in this review, they are so good. Really good musicians can always make an artist sound good, but for me when I hear how musicians play their very best, it is because they dearly love the music they are creating. Carol has a lot of messages on this terrific CD, everything from the very first song that features a female bandit, "Bandita" and what a story it is. The really good 'shifts' in the attention of the lead instruments proves very easily what a good time the musicians are having. In "Too Bad This Town Ain't In Texas" provides an incredible 'swap' of leads from several lead instruments, a couple of electric guitars and a definite steel that don't mind sharing the 'light," of super western swing. Wow, it is such a pity that the decision makers that 'pick' what the American public gets to hear is so sorely lacking in the incredibly beauty of America's own creative artists. Paul Franklin is on the steel. Bryan Sutton is on acoustic guitar, Ryan Cavanaugh is on banjo on "Dust Bowl Dance." Cool! Mark Fain on bass, Lynn Williams on drums, Andy Reese on electric guitar, and an absolutely beautiful fiddle and mandolin picker Aubrey Haynie. especially nice on "Kachemak Bay." It was also a real treat to hear an old friend Rex Allen Jr., joining Carol, sounding just right as he leads with "I dream of a cowboy Christmas..." It's glorious. Wow, what a pleasing CD to listen to. Five stars from me, and a direct invitation to the Rural Root Music Commission to take a listen for their CD of the Year awards. Carol Markstrom has a very unique and beautiful voice. She's different, and that's what makes her special. She spent a lot of time putting this CD together. For me it's some her best work yet. Each and every song on this remarkable production speaks a different story. You'll have to listen yourself if you want to hear something not only unique, but very very good.”
(www.music-savers.com - RECORD REVIEW BY BOB EVERHART, President, National Traditional Country Music Association for Country Music News International)

<https://www.whenthecowboysings.com/carol-markstrom-desert-rose/>

“Occasionally in Carol Markstrom's earlier recordings, I seemed to detect a touch of “careful caution” appearing in her singing. With this one, Markstrom has found her voice, as it were...confident enough to throw a little carefree abandon and even some acting into the delivery, and it works with sassy satisfaction!

Through Rex Allen, Jr., for her newest album Markstrom connected with producer Bil VornDick. He receives co-writing credit on a number of the tracks and his general effect on things has obviously been positive. Eleven musicians (including three from the illustrious Time Jumpers) provide superb support, with vocal harmonies being done by Micki Fuhrman and Rex, Jr. He also joins Markstrom in a duet for the albums closer “Cowboy Christmas.”

Before his death, Mentor Williams sent a folio of his unreleased songs to his buddy Bil VornDick, who has granted her access to two of them for the occasion. Both are album picks. "Bandida" (which Markstrom absolutely nails vocally, co-written with Michael Hearne) and "Love Is An Angel." Other picks include the swinger "Too Bad This Town Ain't In Texas," "Rangeland Lament," and, with Markstrom embracing the international cowboy, "Dust Bowl Dance" from the United Kingdom's alternative rock group Mumford & Sons. Recommended. Thirteen tracks. (Rick Huff's Best of the West Reviews)

REVIEWS of *CROSSING BORDERS* (award-winning 2015 Album):

"Carol Markstrom has done it right with Crossing Borders! She has some nice original songs and a fresh take on cover songs. With her clear wonderful voice and great instrumentals, you'll be entertained!" (Totsie Slover, 2014 WMA Radio DJ/Radio Program of the Year)

"Crossing Borders is the second work of the wonderful Carol Markstrom, if the first "Vision Across the Range" pleasantly surprised us, this certainly will not disappoint you." (Miguel Angel Diaz Gonzalez, Rockin' Therapy Radio in Spain)

"It continually fascinates me to hear cowboy and western music coming out of the old west, but to hear it coming out of even older 'West' Virginia is a marvel. Carol Markstrom makes her mark here with her own compositions, taking the listener deep down to the Rio Grande Valley, both sides, Mexico and the USA. That in itself is a remarkable accomplishment. She also has a perfect old west sound in her voice, not some phony la-la land very bad impersonation. She's very confident with her own material, and to hear her also add some lovely 'standard' old time western songs to the total mix is also not only brave, but also very comforting and easy to listen to." (Bob Everhart, Pres. National Traditional Country Music Association, for Country Music News International)

REVIEWS of *VISION ACROSS THE RANGE* (2012 Album):

"Markstrom...a blooming singer/songwriter whose best work on this promising CD...are rooted in her research and people she has known..." (Ollie Reed, Roundup Magazine of the Western Writers of America)

"...original songs... are generally and lyrically compelling...Markstrom's delivery is direct and without pretense" (Rick Huff's Best of the West Reviews)

"Beautiful voice and harmony! Easy listen. Quality recording!" (MountainMade.com)

"One of Carol's biggest interests is the history of Native Americans and she has written nine of 11 tracks on this CD—the 11th is Bob Dylan's "Knockin' on Heaven's Door." The first track, Spirit Buffalo is about the buffalo community—Native American tribes on the Great Plains (hear it on www.rudiosala.se, sound archives Country Box Program 71). Carol would like to go with a Patsy Montana song and that is "Old Nevada Moon" which reflects Carols' love for living in "the outdoors—just being out under the Western sky—sprinkle me with desert stardust!" Bob Dylan's song (found with "Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid") and Carol's voice, Jim Jones' acoustic guitar, dobro, mandolin, and harmony, is just as nicely relaxed as you could wish for. "Lozen" is about the fantastic woman warriors—lyrics based on the history of Lozen, as she tells about the Apaches. Carol received help from Seth Maynard's acoustic guitar, percussion, and song (Ken Maynard is my cowboy hero of matinees). Snow is on the Aspen – Carol saw the

mountains in southern Colorado as a basis for the perfect love song and that is really so. Peace and Love –Abilene, Texas is a place for a “light hearted....” says Carol...This is a CD that people can play after a hard day’s work, when you want to relax and enjoy peaceful song and music. It’s recommended! (SCC-NYTT Magazine (Sweden) with translation from Swedish courtesy of Lauree Tilton-Weaver)