

Daryl Mosley: The Secret of Life

The Secret of Life

CD: The Secret of Life

Artist: Daryl Mosley

Record Label: Pinecastle Recording Company

Artist Website: www.darylmosely.com

Label website: www.pinecastlemusic.com

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Songs

1. A Few Years Ago
2. The Secret of Life
3. In a Country Town
4. Hands in Wood
5. It Never Gets Old
6. Do What the Good Book Says
7. All the Way Home
8. Piece at a Time
9. The Deal
10. I'd Write You
11. Heartaches Moving In

I am presented with far more CDs than I can review, even presented with more CDs than I can listen to. I am even presented with CDs I have listened to but either could not make it through, or having made it through, never want to hear again: forgotten, tedious, mundane, run-of-the-mill, predictable, none of which are adjectives one wants applied to

their CD. ***The Secret of Life*** is none of those things.

I admire songwriting, and simply thrill when songwriters spread their skills across the whole spectrum of a CD. Daryl Mosley's skill is evident upon the first listen. A promo sheet sent to me by his publicist listed many awards for songwriting. His songwriting is not a fluke. It has been tried and tested, and with ***The Secret of Life***, we are presented with an entire portfolio of his work. Of the eleven songs in ***The Secret of Life***, nine were penned outright by Mosley, with another two sharing co-writer credits, one with Rick Lang and other with The Grascal's Danny Roberts.

Mosely has some serious word-weaving skills to bring out a story in song, particularly in the title cut, *The Secret of Life*, and *In a Country Town*, *Hands in Wood*, and *A Piece at a Time*. *The Secret of Life* is a feel good song advising the listener that life is just where you find it. *In a Country Town* captures the feeling of life in the rural route and all the things those who choose such a life see as blessings which some perceive as drawbacks. *Hands in Wood* is an outstanding treatise on making a living with your hands and forging out a life for yourself and your family by the skills you bring to your work.

I liked all the songs on the CD. *The Deal* was a little dark for me, but others may find in it their own Secret of Life. My toe was fairly well tapping as I got to *In a Country Town*. The recording, mixing, and mastering were so smooth, I took the CD out of my laptop and hustled over to my studio PC. I fired it up loud on my Mackie HR824 monitors. If there was any harshness, those monitors would reveal it. I smiled because there was none. I turned it up louder and louder, until the walls were shaking: just smooth. That's the way I like it. I tip my hat to producers Mosely and Roberts, Gorilla's Nest Studio, in Ashland City, TN, , and Audio Engineer Chris Latham. A couple of times I thought the fiddle was a bit too far back in the mix, but that is a matter of personal taste.

All in all, it is a great piece of work.

The CD does not list a banjo player, but two mandolin players, co-producer Danny Roberts being one, and Aaron McDaris being the other. I scrambled around to find out who the banjoist was, and saw on the promo sheet sent to me that it was McDaris. I do not know if McDaris also played the mandolin on this CD, but I enjoyed it (Roberts?) I particularly enjoyed the banjo playing. While there is the school in Bluegrass music that subscribes to the concept of the constantly driving banjo, I did not attend that school. While McDaris drove right on through a couple of tunes, he does so impeccably. I thoroughly enjoyed his work. I also enjoyed the backup runs on Tony Wray's guitar. The sound of the guitar and the dobro, together, on *It Never Gets Old* had a delightful understated strength. Understated strength is a good thing since it lets our own minds inhabit the music and pull from our own experiences, which makes for a song that touches us personally. I think *It Never Gets Old* is my favorite song on the CD; the close duet harmonies are just perfect. *I'd Write You* is a hot-on-its-heels second.

Do What the Good Book Says just re-queued itself on my CD player. My toe is tapping.

I like that. Congratulations, Pinecastle and Daryl Mosely!

Mississippi Chris Sharp