HIGHWAY BOUQUET REVIEWS

Hey! Susan,  
Your song Ring The Bells should be adopted as the anthem for the rescued miners of Copiapo, Chile and, indeed, as a song of redemption for all of us here on this great planet.   
It's a stunningly direct song of belief in the greater good of humanity and is a regular on our worldwide radio show.  We'll be starting tonight's show (Thursday 14th October) with it.  
Please keep me posted on whatever music you make next - and tell your producerman Billy Masters he's turned in a classic.  
All best wishes,  
Stewart  
Stewart Cruickshank  
Senior Producer  
The Iain Anderson Show  
BBC Radio Scotland

CATHERINE MICHAELS, DJ WHUD  
8/4/08

First, I have to tell you, as I was listening to your amazing version of Love Has No Pride,  I got news that a friend's nephew was killed in Iraq--tragically a Humvee rollover...I thought  those vehicles were designed to protect? I really hate this war.    
I'm not one to make comparisons, but your artistry definitely side by side with Linda Ronstadt and Joni Mitchell on this album. The Story of Kesey is heartbreaking...I loved hearing the mandolin on   Tenderhearted...then realized it's Matt Turk--great musician.  I really love the song Nothing at All,   especially:   
'But you're just a lonely satellite   
You get your orders from below  
From the ground you seem a star so bright  
And the truth they'll never know'

Whew...that wrecks me.   Highway Bouquet is an invitation to hit the road with Susan Kane--her voice the fuel, sweet momentum of the strings, the wheels. From the lead track *Ring the Bells*, this lyrical journey with Susan teaches us that even in the darkness of the past, hope blooms. Hallelujah!

HOOKED ON MUSIC, FRANK IPACH   
The good old 'highway' is probably one of the most obvious associations in the Americana environment. Certainly there is also the front porch', the mountains, the desert, the barn and what else, I don't know ... But Susan Kane from New Jersey chose her second album for the highway and presented it on her " Highway Bouquet "- to stay in the picture - a colorful bouquet of melodies, moods and feelings that reflect a large part of the Americana or roots music facets. Once from north to south, from west to east. And all of this in just under 40 minutes.

Of course, in this genre where country, folk, blues elements go hand in hand, it is not easy to stand out from other established artists, to establish ones own “brand”, to surprise or even to destroy. Susan Kane acts along her "Highway Bouquet" in a rather conventional way, is well aware of country traditions and tries not to attract attention except through quality.

Basically, Ms. Kane does nothing wrong, is not stingy with her talents, has a warm, expressive voice that seems made for her country outings often presented in an acoustic setting; in the more gripping opener Ring the Bells, with its Bonnie Raitt/Jackson Browne flair, makes a strong impression. Keyword Bonnie Raitt: in addition to her eight original songs, Susan Kane serves us a GRATEFUL DEAD cover (To Lay Me Down) and a stripped down, but affecting cover version of the time-honored Love Has No Pride from Bonnie Raitt's second album (1972) "Give It Up ". This song has been adapted by many other artists, including Linda Ronstadt and Rita Coolidge, but this magnificent ballad will never be boring. It is not only here that the fine dobro and slide work of the album producer Billy Masters, which some of you might know from his collaboration with Suzanne Vega, is particularly convincing. Masters gives this hustle and bustle of acoustic and electric roots moments a transparent and absolutely fitting sound that skillfully rounds off the entertainment value of this beautiful album.

STEVE CLARK DJ  
Highway Bouquet has become a staple on my iPod.  I just had to share a track with my listeners tonight.   Congratulations on a solid album.  (List posted to FOLKDJ)

Steve Clarke  
Acoustic Planet (Thursdays 8 to 10 pm)  
Erin Radio -- CHES 101.5 FM  
[www.erinradio.ca](http://www.erinradio.ca/)

CHRONOGRAM MAGAZINE, MICHAEL RUBY

MARCH 2009

Susan Kane is the real thing. The lower Hudson Valley-based singer-songwriter has just released her second album, Highway Bouquet, and it’s chock-full of great songs and great singing, all set off with a shimmering production job from multi-instrumentalist and Suzanne Vega side man Billy Masters (who called in ringers like Lisa Gutkin, Fred Gillen Jr., and Marc Muller to assist). Kane would have been comfortable in the “Mellow Mafia” of late-’70s Los Angeles, but her music has a stronger country edge and occasionally even leans into the alt.folk territory of her peers. Since Kane covers the Eric Kaz/Libby Titus chestnut “Love Has No Pride” on the album, one assumes she won’t mind the comparison to Linda Ronstadt. But, truth be told, Karla Bonoff—who wrote many of Ronstadt’s most enduring songs—is an even stronger touchstone. And that’s not a bad thing, especially when you combine Kane’s irresistible voice—you can live in it for days—with hooks as big as those on the lush, anthemic “Ring the Bells,” the witty “Big Baby,” and the intimate, acoustic “Tenderhearted.” Kane also covers “To Lay Me Down,” a lesser-known gem from Jerry Garcia’s first solo album, which will certainly pull in casual listeners from the Dead side of the tracks. Further proof of Kane’s Me Decade leanings is the fact that Highway Bouquet clocks in at a vinyl-friendly 41 minutes. If only other songwriters would take the hint and offer this kind of quality, rather than simple quantity.

CRI DU COYOTE

JEAN-JACQUES CORRIO MAY 2009

Second album by New Yorker Susan Kane. It was produced by guitarist Billy Masters, known, among other things, for his performances with Suzanne Vega and Richard Shindell. For several years, Susan Kane has acquired a solid reputation in the world of folk music along the Hudson River. Her voice without vibrato is very pure, quite close to that of Kate Wolf. We find good on Billy Masters on guitar, as well as dobro or mandolin. 8 of the 10 songs were written by Susan. The other two are a nice version of To Lay Me Down from Grateful Dead and Love Has No Pride, song written by Eric Kaz and Libby Titus for Bonnie Raitt, almost 40 years ago

ROOTSVILE

REIN VAN DER BERG

Huge numbers of CDs are released, some good ones, some exceptionally beautiful ones, even some bad ones. How do you hear the difference? Easy; you have to open yourself up, listen, and listen again, take time and give attention. Some music gives in quickly, others demand more effort.

The latter category is often the nicest, those who do not surrender immediately, but ultimately still reveal their "beauty". Susan Kane’s floral splendor immediately convinces. Her style is open and clear. Sound and production have matured and make a smooth mature impression. These highway gems roll past carelessly in a very pleasant way, which unnoticeably conjures up this record above the average. That she is compared to Linda Ronstadt or Aimee Mann is not a salvation for me. However, her singing and the way in which she performs her music are so convincing that I have defined for myself a further analysis of her 2004 debut "So Long".

Susan Kane clearly tastes more, both her own written material and the classical song "Love has no pride" by Eric Kaz & Libby Titus originally from the first LP by American Flyer. Highway Bouquet is a beautiful composite set!

FLYIN SHOES REVIEW  
October 2008  
Each month I report to the chart below choosing the best 6 recordings received in the previous month.  [http://www.euroamericanachart.nl](http://www.euroamericanachart.nl/)  This month's best of are...  
Doug Hoekstra  
Blooming Roses  
Robin Dean Salmon   
Come on home  
Susan Kane   
Highway Bouquet  
James Dunn    
The Long Ride Home  
Camille Bloom    
Say Goodbye to Pretty  
Pulco    
I dreamt of cows E.P.

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