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TRANSITION: A SUBTLE MIGRATION THAT WORKS

*Album review by
Kimberly Rinker*

The most musically sophisticated album yet by **Ladd Biro**, as exemplified in his first track *Transition*, makes a solid case for why he's deserving of acclaim. On his title track, Biro has combined an Earth, Wind & Fire feel with new modern, and synched the two musical genres with a jazzy sling which provides *Transition* with a near-universal appeal for all audiences.

The eclectic background vocals through this latest endeavor offer a grounding point for Biro's smooth range and whether embarking on originals or old standards, his style favors a feathery touch which results in the album carrying a light and suspended quality.

"I worked collectively (with other musicians) and found out that music just wasn't notes on a page but how a person reacts with the music both in a group and singularly," Biro says. "I like the attitude of working with people when everybody is willing to try something new

and that helps the musicians to feed off one another."

"*She's Lying*," for instance, floats on a bluesy rendition of universal hurt that reaches forward from a flickering classical guitar complemented by piano and horn solos that wave over harmonious back-ground vocals.

In "*Way Down South*"—an upbeat and energetic perky tune that's easy to like—Biro's temperament and metaphoric musical talent is defined with mesmerizing melodic lines. The same can be said of "*Barbara Brown*," which Biro wrote in homage to a high school friend. The uplifting tempo reminds one of listening to Chicago when they were the Chicago Transit Authority back in the early 70s.

However nothing compares to "*I Gotta Feeling*"—this writer's favorite—which has the potential to become a series hit across several musical platforms. Bustling with creative energy, "*I Gotta Feeling*" is yet another example of Biro drawing on his musical roots and orchestrating a cross-pollination of musical personalities, including the 1960s, classic country, laughter and ingenious storytelling.

"When you have a good piece of music and good lyrics to go along with it, you have a marriage of sorts," Biro stressed. "When you can

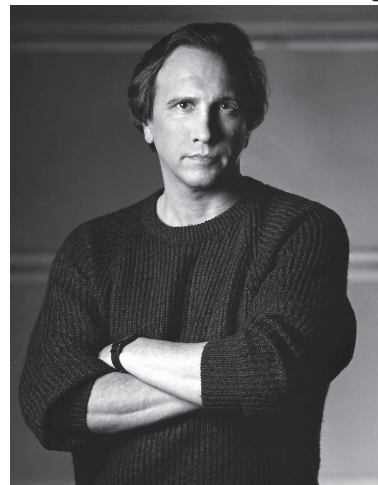
convey that, and have a musical brain to draw on that—a la George Martin—you're able to present to an audience and the end result often is that you won't find a dry eye in the house when you're finished performing the piece."

This mindset is exemplified in Biro's "*In Days Gone By*" and "*Stronger On My Own*" — cool ballads which offer a glimpse into Biro's vast vocal range, as does "*Falling For The Lady*." The latter, in particular, is a classic soft and serene flowing anthem that blends well with a glass of wine and romantic interlude in front of a cozy fire.

"*Maybe That Someone Is You*" is a lovely duet with singing group Velvet—members of Biro's vocal team—that allows him to engage in a musical dance while delivering heart-tugging dialogue. The love ballad "*One*," conveys a similar tempo and feel as the aforementioned tune, with a dreamy, almost whispered melody and complex tonalities sure to calm the soul.

Another stylistic musical adventure comes together in "*You're Watching Me Watching You*," offering a catchy refrain with trenchant grooves and graceful melodies, as Biro's vocals tiptoe catlike, over bass and treble lines.

"*Good Music Classic*" is a funky, rockabilly tune of the highest calling while "*Until We Meet Again*" offers an uplifting combination of strong



Ladd Biro



background vocals with an underlying presence of strong and traditional country guitar twang—another of this writer's favorites.

"I think John Lennon said it the best," Biro offered. "A good song stands. It's that simple. A good song stands."

Biro has been playing clubs as a pianist, saxophone and guitar player in various bands for four decades and overall, his voice has reached a new plateau. He's enriched himself and his music with this latest album, highlighted by eclectic background vocals and his own refreshing vocal clarity. His ballads are a bit similar in tempo and style, but overall great for the easy listening crowd. It's his up-tempo tracks that are the most impressive with rumbling bass lines, mashing piano chords and mesmerizing guitar solos that reflect a poised musical refinement throughout each track.

In conclusion, *Transition* spotlights Biro's styles and abilities both as a vocalist and as a songwriter. For someone who has already accomplished so much through his vocal talents, songwriting and instrumentation, Biro appears poised to become an even larger musical presence in the future.

More on Transition from Gordon Waterstone - The Horseman And Fair World...

After listening to Ladd Biro's CD *Transition*, I have but one word: Refreshing. Make that two words: Wow!

Knowing Ladd for many years I wasn't sure what to expect when I popped in the CD,

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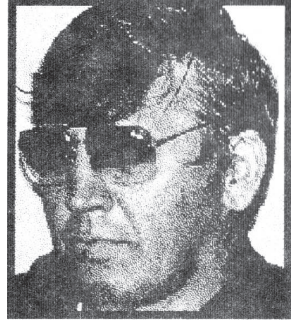
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but it's pure enjoyment from start to finish. I knew when I was tapping my foot halfway through his title track that kicks things off, I was in for a treat.

I could go through every song and have nothing but praises to sing, but there is one ballad that tugged at my heart. While I have never had the opportunity to walk a daughter down the aisle at her wedding, if you aren't brought to tears listening to **"In Days Gone By"** there is simply something wrong with you. What a well-written song, and Ladd couldn't sing it more beautifully. As you listen to the lyrics, it's a given that you imagine yourself especially if you are a father with a daughter at the wedding.

While *Transition* is certainly a great up-beat song that fits the bill for the title track, it's the ballads Ladd sings that really moved me. Especially in **"In Days Gone By,"** which brought me to a spot I have never been.

Another enjoyable song on the CD is titled **"Falling For The Lady."**

Editor's Note: I was quite impressed with Ladd Biro's CD!! It's one of the best variety of songs I've heard in a long time!!

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JANA KRAMER BABY GIRL & ACM NOMINEE

Jana Kramer received two wonderful surprises in less than 24 hours: a Female Vocalist of the Year nomination for this year's ACM Awards and a new baby girl, **Jolie Rae Caussin**, born on January 31. This is Kramer's first Female Vocalist nom following her ACM Award win for "Top New Female Artist" in 2012.

"What a whirlwind of great surprises and wonderful news," said Kramer. **"I'm overwhelmed with joy after welcoming my beautiful baby girl into the world AND finding out I've been nominated for an ACM Award!"**

A number with special significance for Jana, 31 is not only the title of her latest critically-acclaimed album, featuring the gold-certified single **"I Got The Boy"** but also just so happened to be the day she gave birth to her new baby daughter.

In October, *thirty one* debuted with career-best sales numbers, landing in the Top 10 of the all-genre *Billboard* 200 albums chart and at No. 3 on the Country Albums chart.