

“Timing & Expectation” by Jane Laws

Review by Alan Edwards (Musical Australiana) 104.7 Gippsland FM

This is a diverse and engaging collection of songs by a singer/songwriter who has assiduously polished her skills over a long period of involvement in the business. “Timing & Expectation” is Jane’s most adventurous and complete display of her abilities to date. This is her ‘tour de force’ in that she marries several themes into a complete work, that expresses all of them.

The first of these themes reflects the fact that Jane has developed a love for country, and a sense of connection to the land, to a level that is rare in non- indigenous folk. It is expressed beautifully in “Wilcannia My Darling”, as well as in “Falls Of Thunder”; in “Travelling Man” she emphasises that there is always something new to learn from country every time you travel through it.

Another theme is of relationships and self stressed by external factors over which we have no control. This is so true of life in the Covid-19 world we inhabit today. “Help Me Find My Mind”, and “Can I Dance”, are perceptive expressions of this phenomenon, whilst “Not Enough To Go Around” gives voice to the disappointments involved. “Optical Illusions” questions whether we can really trust our senses as we seek a way forward out of such dark places.

The grand theme is that of hope, and its importance for the future. “He’s Nice” celebrates the fact that there *are* kindred spirits out there. “Eighty-Seven Years” acknowledges the contribution made by those who have gone before, and that many of their values are meaningful today. “Wings of Hope” points a way forward by capitalising on life’s positives.

“Timing & Expectation” is a charming album of great merit. I thought the standout track is the ‘almost reggae’ “Down To The Waterline” because it is so full of the joy of life. Jane Laws has crafted a unique set of songs, that recognise the contemporary need for us to show a bit of love for our country and countrymen, the rewards are there to be had.