



## Album Review: Tea Goans – *The Way I Remember It*



Paul W. Dennis | June 30th, 2010

Tea Goans has been associated with the Grand Ole Opry since 2006, working in a number of capacities both paid and unpaid, where her vocal abilities have come to the attention of country stalwarts like Bill Anderson, Jimmy Dickens and Joe Spivey, the multi-instrumental performer of the celebrated Time Jumpers.

Although Goans' voice seems to be stronger in the lower half of her range than in the upper end (Nashville Sound-era production covered that up nicely for singers like Tammy Wynette), her upper range is still more than adequate. In fact, Terry Choate thought so highly of Goans' singing that he produced her album, gathering together an impressive lineup of musicians that includes Spivey on fiddle, acoustic guitar, and mandolin, fellow Time Jumpers Aubrey Haynie and Kenny Sears (fiddles), and Paul Franklin (steel guitar), along with an array of other fine musicians that includes the legendary Texas Troubadour lead guitarist Leon Rhodes.

*The Way I Remember It* contains 12 songs, the weakest being “Lying In My Arms,” a very minor hit for Rex Allen Jr in 1970, but the problem wasn't the singer—then or now.

The remaining tracks range from good to excellent, while the highlight is Goans' version of the Ernest Tubb classic “Walking The Floor Over You.” The first verse is a slow, soulful lament with minimal accompaniment, after which she reverts to the classic tempo and instrumentation featuring Tubb's legendary lead guitarist Leon Rhodes. It's a cover that must surely have Tubb smiling down from heaven.

The recording of the Bill Anderson classic “Walk Out Backwards,” which—back in 1961—was his second Top 10, is another standout; Goans does an exceptional job and has a good feel for the material.

Dan Tyminski, the singing voice of George Clooney on the *Oh Brother Where Art Thou* soundtrack (“Man of Constant Sorrow”), joins Goans on the tender ballad “Made For Loving You” and will surely leave listeners hoping they team up for more duets in the future as it's about time Tyminski had a decent singing partner!

For fans of traditional country music, *The Way I Remember It* will be *the* Nashville album of the year, joining those released by various traditional, Texas-based labels.