

**The Rides
PIERCED
ARROW**

Provogue/Mascot
Label Group

★★★

Danger:

Supergroup alert

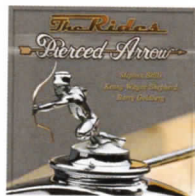
Panic no more, for this bunch neatly circumvent the worst excesses of the super group genre, they even have the temerity to play songs rather than just show off to each other, hard to imagine but true.

The bunch in question are Stephen Stills, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, neither of whom need any introduction, Barry Goldberg (Electric Flag), Chris Layton (Stevie Ray Vaughan & Double Trouble), and bassist/producer Kevin McCormick, and they all seem to be having a whale of a time conjuring up a blues rock tour de force.

Other than the slight irony of Stills protesting too much about first world problems all the songs shuffle along with the necessary swagger and poise, which allows the twin lead guitars of Shepherd and Stills more than enough room to let off their respective fireworks. Indeed most songs are credited to the band members minus Layton, although there is a splendid cover of Willie Dixon's "My Babe". But, by far, the stand out track is the Goldberg and Gerry Goffin Co-write I've Got To Use My Imagination which was a hit for Gladys Knight back in the day.

That is more than enough name dropping; suffice to say that this music is great for the car and any standing venue where you can cheer with a beer in your hand. Good times! . **Ian Ambrose**

www.mascotlabelgroup.com



"A song collector, with an eye for long-forgotten tracks, Alice spent great amounts of time and effort researching for this album..."

Alice Jones reviewed by
Megan Gnad

NEW RELEASES



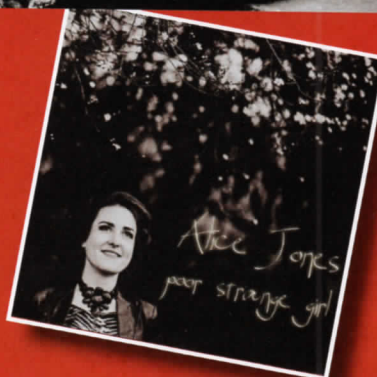
**Alice Jones
POOR STRANGE GIRL**

Splid Records

www.alicejonesmusic.com

★★★★

*British singer-songwriter brings
new life to traditional folk songs*



Influenced by the honest and humble traditions of both American and British folk music, Yorkshire's Alice Jones' debut album, POOR STRANGE GIRL, will captivate and inspire.

The multi-talented musician, who lists keyboards, whistle, clarinet and tenor guitar on her resume, is also an Appalachian and longsword dancer.

A song collector, with an eye for long-forgotten tracks, Alice spent great amounts of time and effort researching for this album. She found inspiration in the compilations of Cecil Sharp, Frank and Anne Warner, and Leeds-born folk song collector, Frank Kidson's 1891 publication, Traditional Tunes. It provided the basis for songs Green Bushes and When I Am Far Away, which she re-arranged for the 12-track album.

All the songs are either written by Alice Jones, or have been arranged by her from traditional tunes, which she has added her own clear vocals and music styling to. From the beautiful and chilling, Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still, to the poignant, Long, Long Trail A-Winding, the storytelling and origin of the song is clearly important to the artist.

This is detailed with careful descriptions of the meaning behind each song in the album's CD cover. POOR STRANGE GIRL is an astute and tender album, exploring the beginnings of folk music with a modern and respectful outlook.

A must-have release for fans of traditional British music album.

Megan Gnad