

2008

Chanteuse (Amanda Easton)

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Publication details

Hannan, MF 2008, 'Chanteuse (Amanda Easton)', *Music Forum*, vol. 14, no. 4, p. 69.
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Chanteuse

Amanda Easton

WildcatRecords WCR20071

Reviewed by Michael Hannan

Amanda Easton is a very accomplished and powerful singer but her original songs (mostly co-composed) have a sameness about them, and her vocal interpretations of them ultimately lack emotional range. This, her second album, is touted in her press releases as “theatrical” and possessing “a tinge of blues and a touch of jazz”; but, although Easton does have quite a distinctive sound, she certainly fails to display much in the way of stylistic versatility.

Chanteuse is very professionally produced by Michael Carpenter and Matt Fell but most of their best work (and that of a number of other collaborators) seems to be concentrated in the first track, “Less Ordinary”. The subtle and skilful electronic instrumental arranging and production of this song overshadow the treatment afforded to all the other tracks. These, although highly competent, are clearly less sophisticated in their production values. It is probably a result of the budget Easton had for the project, and ultimately an indicator that, with more financial support, her other songs might have scrubbed up much better.