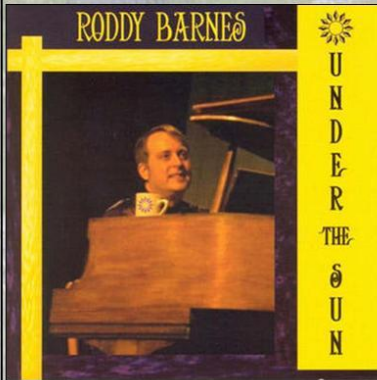


# Miss Ella's Treasures



## Roddy Barnes Under The Sun

I met Roddy Barnes and Ian Walters outside of Pittsburgh while judging at the competition held by the Blues Society of Western Pennsylvania. A special thanks to Jonnye Weber for the invitation, as it was through her I had the pleasure of meeting them. They were magic, finishing second in the solo/duo category.



**-Review: Miss Ella Shafer –Sister To The Blues-**

While there, Roddy gave me three of his CDs and asked me to please listen to them and, of course, I said yes. A few days later I slipped Under The Sun into the disc player and I captured under a spell.

This is a thirteen track CD on which all of the songs are original - written, arranged, and performed by Roddy. To say this man can play those white and black keys is an understatement. I can't wait to listen to the other CDs. You'll soon hear more from me about this artist. His melodic voice combined with the backup artists he brought on board bring richness to this project. I am fascinated by these guest artists – With Roddy at the helm, this group would have been capable of appearing at venues such as the Copa Cabana odd the Apollo.

His past influences include Bessie Smith and her piano player Clarence Williams, Pinetop Perkins, and Jelly Roll Morton. Roddy started playing piano since he was four years old and has never stopped.

In recent years, Roddy has toured with Saffire The Uppity Blues Women. He credits them for teaching him so much about music and the business therein.

Let's get back to the musicians appearing with him. First, there is Alan Holmes on harmonica. I play harmonica in a different style and not up to his caliber – kudos Alan! You'll hear Jeff Covert on drums, bass & upright bass, guitar, mandolin, and backup vocals. Gina DeLuca does an excellent job on backup vocals. Add to this list Rebecca Maxon on cello and Ben Grondahl on clarinet. Roddy finds the right place to slip each one of these into the music, and each song has a special message. Although I love every track, my favorite is Nocturne for Harmonica.

Jeff also produced, engineered, and mixed this CD which was mastered by Bill Wolf. It was recorded at the Wally Cleavers studio in Fredericksburg, VA.

As I alluded to earlier, you will soon hear from me with another review on one of Roddy's other CDs. Meanwhile (which won't be long), you can find his music on CDBaby. Purchase your copy so you can enjoy it as much as I do mine.

