

Cyndie Hasty Biography

Cyndie Hasty's two critically acclaimed albums, *Alabama Blues* (1997) and *Temptation* (2001), celebrate a rich blend of rural Southern flavored songs mixed with urban experiences, and a pop sensibility that draws from rock, folk, jazz, gospel, soul and blues.

Raised in the Florida panhandle near the Alabama border, Cyndie grew up in a large, musical family. Hot summer nights were spent singing gospel hymns and country favorites accompanied by her father, Charlie, on his Les Paul. She disdained her brother Kenny's squealing guitar solos and glam rock yearnings. But when he taught her the cool piano parts to "Rocky Mountain Way" and "All The Young Dudes" she fell in love with rock-n-roll.

Kenny's death at 17 kept him from musical fame, but he was a local hero and Cyndie picked up his torch. With her brother's legacy, and the help of her sisters, she packed her bags for New York City, taking with her the sweetest parts of the south.

Music critic Stephanie Ramp notes "Cyndie weaves cryptically in and out of autobiography and fiction...giving you a peeping-Tom glimpse at her Southern origins and dazzling with an array of characters whose stories intertwine with down-home secrecy. Each of her songs take you on a road trip through someone's history until, ultimately, you feel like it's part of your own."

From picking peas and listening to country music from her daddy's truck radio, to singing in upscale venues and honky tonks throughout the United States, to jamming after-hours in clubs on three continents, Cyndie Hasty's wandering spirit keeps the faith in New York City.

Cyndie Hasty - In the News



CYNDIE HASTY A little bit too slurry to slip into the ol' sensitive singer songwriter pigeonhole, this Bible-belt belter filters Rickie Lee Jones-styled cool through a mesh of kudzu. When the songs connect, they're simultaneously stinging and soothing, like a morning wave off the Atlantic. **Sprague**



AMG EXPERT REVIEW:

Cyndie Hasty's *Temptation* is a gritty, soulful mix of folk, R&B, and roots rock that conveys deeply personal lyrics with irresistibly catchy melodies via organic arrangements. Her confessional narratives probe the human condition as it relates to love, deception, indulgence, and seduction. With ace guitarist Karlus Trapp by her side, Hasty faces the trials of failed romance ("*Crazy Old Soul*," "*One Day*"), desire ("*Thinking About You*"), and redemption ("*Say It Again*") with courage and tenacity. Utilizing the sparse instrumentation to her advantage, Hasty invigorates this intimate song cycle with the boogie-woogie romp "*Crossing the Land*," stretching her piano chops and trading spirited licks with Trapp, and the bittersweet bluesy "*Honey Please Forgive*," starring the quasi-fictional characters Jim and Tammy. The most alluring cut on this collection is the elusive country-waltz "*Come Dance With Me*," featuring Michael Levine on violin, which derives its storyline from the James Purdy novel "*In a Shallow Grave*," detailing the indeterminate sexual ambitions of a young soldier. Every track on *Temptation* displays Hasty's stellar songcraft, impassioned delivery, and instrumental expertise. She's managed to avoid the clichés that prevent many folk-rock singer/songwriters from achieving commercial success with an album that could easily cross over into the mainstream.

Temptation



Hasty's most appealing trait is her deep, slightly husky voice. Most of the songs on the self-released **Temptation** only feature acoustic guitar and/or piano, and they amble gently along. The title track owes a big debt to Laura Nyro, but frankly, there are worse people to look up to.



Cyndie Hasty, *Temptation*, © Kenjamin Music

What's special about this CD is the variety of music on it. Cyndie Hasty goes through many musical transformations. The opening song, "*Thinking About You*," is done acoustically. It and "*Crazy Old Soul*" have the vocal stylings of Melissa Etheridge - rough and jagged, but soft underneath. The CD shifts when we get to "*Temptation*." Cyndie sings the song alone with the piano, with pain in her voice that screams for your understanding. "*Crossing The Land*" is a 1950s-style rockabilly song that's a fun listen. Cyndie's vocal and harmonies stay rich and fresh throughout. Her talent is well-established in this collection of songs. **Kimberly Schedel**



Cyndie Hasty, *Temptation*, © Kenjamin Music From this southern belle comes tales of love and loss, via her voice and piano. The tracks are simple, sometimes just piano and guitar, sometimes no piano, sometimes no guitar. The lack of percussion gives a folksy feel, and makes you concentrate on the songs, while the piano gives it that smoky cabaret thing. The songs are bluesy and folky, "*Come and Dance With Me*" and "*Long Gone Now*," the former almost Appalachian, the latter sounding like coffeehouse Indigo Girls without the embittered dyke attitude. One of the better cuts is "*Honey, Please Forgive*," which features Karlus Trapp playing a nice slide guitar. **Bill Ribas**



Cyndie Hasty, *Temptation*, © Kenjamin Music

Writing about love isn't quite like dancing about architecture, but it's close. Singer/songwriter Cyndie Hasty tries wrapping her arms around our most ephemeral and elusive emotion from a country-inflected perspective. On *Temptation*, her second CD, Hasty takes on several personas in songs that unfold like mini-short stories on this 12-track quest, from the regretful philosopher, to the one betrayed, to the vengeful one left behind. Best offering is her stellar, bluesy "*Honey, Please Forgive*." Its snaky guitar runs, fine piano and Hasty's earnest vocals combine for a shiver-inducing sincerity. Mostly a husky-voiced crooner, Hasty doesn't shy away from kicking it up a couple of notches in the foot-stompin' "*Crossing the Land*." **Fred Kraus**

Cyndie Hasty

Cyndie is a singer/songwriter based in New York City. Her Americana music is a synthesis of rock, folk and blues with a distinct Southern sensibility. Check out Cyndie's website at www.cyndiehasty.com.

Professional Organizations:

NARAS, ASCAP, SGA

Kenjamin Music CD releases (New York City)

Cyndie Hasty – **Alabama Blues***

Cyndie Hasty – **Temptation***

* On sale at Tower Records, www.Amazon.com, www.CyndieHasty.com.

Regional performances include:

- Lincoln Center, New York City
- The Original House of Blues, Cambridge, MA
- Barnes & Noble Bookstores, Northeast tour
- Caroline's Comedy Club, New York City
- Gotham Comedy Club, New York City
- Tribeca Performing Arts Center, New York City
- Stamford Performing Arts Center, Stamford, CT
- HMV Records, Philadelphia, PA
- The FloraBama Club, Gulf Shores, AL
- Maxwell's, Hoboken, NJ
- The Acoustic Café, Bridgeport, CT

Local performances include:

- CB's 313 Gallery, New York City
- Don Hill's, New York City
- The Living Room, New York City
- Arlene Grocery, New York City
- Downtime, New York City
- West Bank Café, New York City

Festivals/Benefits include:

- Florida Folk Festival
- Mullet Festival (one of the nation's largest outdoor festivals)
- Seaside Music and Art Festival
- Philadelphia Songwriter's Forum
- Greater Gulfcoast Arts Festival
- OtherVoices/Voices Lost Benefit

Opening act for:

- Mose Allison
- Lea DeLaria
- Nathan and The Zydeco Cha-Cha's
- Margaret Whiting
- Debi Smith of the Four Bitchin' Babes
- Greg Greenway
- SONiA/Disappear Fear

Professional Organizations:

ASCAP

SGA

NARAS

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