

CD Reviews - Bob Brooker

Songs Worth Singing (vols 1&2) Our Home Is On The Sea Strictly Me

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Reviewed by Bob Taberner

Bob Brooker is a one-man folk industry. A talented multi-instrumentalist and singer, he's also responsible for the recording, engineering and mixing of these four CDs. The multi-tracking of up to five instruments (all played by Bob) blends together very well and he doesn't overdo the use of two vocal tracks for choruses. He's helped out on a few tracks by Ewan Cameron on whistles.

The first two CDs complement Bob's books of the same name. All the tracks are highly competent but some have that extra edge that comes from frequent performance. The American songs *East Virginia Blues*, *Bury Me Neath The Willow* and *Rollin' In My Sweet Baby's Arms* were the ones I enjoyed most here.

Our Home Is On The Sea is different from the others in featuring guest musicians Clive Ryder, Jez Bloomer, Nigel Ward and Maggie Coleman as well as Bob. As the title suggests, the theme is nautical songs and Bob, who hails originally from Lincolnshire, includes songs from those fine songwriters of that county, John Conolly and Bill Meek, as well as traditional items.

All three CDs mentioned so far include some of Bob's own songs and **Strictly Me** is entirely devoted to his songwriting. With the ready-made theme of Lincolnshire's trawling tradition, Bob's songs stand up well and he tackles many other topics as well.

Recommended.

