

K.J.Denhert - Girl Like Me & Martha Redbone - Home of the Brave

Before your collective jaws hit the floor and you start hammering away insults on your sticky keyboards at both the website and me, let me explain. We are occasionally contacted by promotional companies looking to have us review their artists. While this doesn't happen often, when it does, the companies usually haven't looked at the site very closely. They know that the site features music reviews of both major label and independent artists and that's about all they know. Such is the case with the company that contacted us to review K.J. Denhert's and Martha Redbone's releases.

While we have been reasonably good about including other styles of music on here, the truth is it's hard to review an album objectively if you are not predisposed to ever liking that style of music to begin with. Such is the case with these two artists.

Both CD's are very well done. Both are well written, well produced and well performed. Martha Redbone's disc comes across like a more soul-influenced version of Sunset Room's disc that we reviewed a few years back. It's got shades of artists like Roberta Flack and Carole King. She's not that far removed from a Macy Gray (only minus the party/funkadelic atmosphere). It's the kind of smooth jazz/R&B record that easy listening stations will love.

K.J. Denhert's disc has a style slightly different from Redbone's but most of the sound is still the same. Denhert is a guitarist first and foremost and while this is way funkier than Joni Mitchell it still reminds me of her quite a bit. Again, the writing, playing and production are all there and her backing band is incredibly talented. Also, once again, this is perfect music for adult contemporary or smooth jazz stations.

So, in keeping with our promise to always take a stand one way or the other on every CD we review, I would have to say that I probably won't listen to these CD's very often. They are simply not my "cup of tea" so to speak. I like jazz but not the smooth jazz. I'm a Coltrane, Monk, Davis and Coleman type of guy. I'm also not a big fan of Joni Mitchell, so that's another reason why I probably am not the guy fit to review this. However, I would highly recommend this to anyone who is a big Carole King or Joni Mitchell fan. Both of these artists are incredibly talented and while I may not be ecstatic about these discs, I have to admit that they both deserve your attention if you like soul, R&B or jazz.

You can find K.J. Denhert's CD at www.cdbaby.com. Martha Redbone's disc is available at Amazon.com. Also, each artist has their own website which will give you a taste of what they offer. You can find them at:

<u>www.martharedbone.com</u> <u>www.kjdenhert.com</u>