



Steven Gellman Press Quotes & Reviews

Peaceful World

Best Contemporary Folk Recording Nominee – Washington Area Music Awards (2010)

“Worthy of your attention.” IPOP CULTURE WITH GREGG SHAPIRO

"A collection of brilliantly crafted folk masterpieces that pull you into another world." PAMUSICSCENE.COM

"Behind every note and every word is an honest heart and a beautiful spirit! Isn't this what making music is supposed to be about?" KATE CAMPBELL, SINGER/SONGWRITER

Love Loss Longing

“A beautiful version of Shenandoah.” MUSIC MONTHLY

“A terrific rendition of the traditional Shenandoah.” WINDY CITY TIMES

Return to Summer Lake

“Essential for fans of sensitive acoustic music.” BILLBOARD MAGAZINE

"Anyone stuck behind the wheel as traffic creeps along the beltway could use Steven Gellman's latest offering ("Return to Summer Lake") - a collection of folk music that conjures up images of lush pastures and sunny getaways." THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Photobook

Best Contemporary Folk Recording Nominee – Washington Area Music Awards (1998)

"Intensely sensitive and impressively intelligent at the same time." BILLBOARD MAGAZINE

"Check out Photobook. It'll...do your heart good." THE WASHINGTON POST

Steven's Performance Style

Best Contemporary Folk Vocalist Nominee – Washington Area Music Awards (1998, 2010, 2011)

"Gellman's sensitive songcraft incorporates simple but evocative slice-of-life imagery, homespun folk warmth, keen pop instincts, and crisp, first-rate musicianship. Part poetic reflection, part chicken soup for the ears... his soft tenor radiates with a choirboy's pristine poise, yet authentically conveys the depth of his themes." TAYLOR GUITARS

"Steven Gellman's insightful original songs and homespun stories provide a soul-warming folk rock respite in a busy, chilly world." DON MURPHY, THE NATIONAL THEATER

“Gellman has sort of a John Denver-ish voice in the way he hangs on to a note and floats the vibrato and carries the sentiment of his lyrics.” MUSIC MONTHLY

Billboard Magazine

Add Gellman's name to the growing list of out-queer tunesmiths who are making waves along the coffeehouse circuit at the moment, and he's doing so without being heavy-handed or annoyingly simplistic. With its deft acoustic-rock instrumentation and heartfelt vocals, the track [Believe] has a vibe similar to Indigo Girls. AC tastemakers should use that as a point of programming reference and make room for this unique recording, which manages to be intensely sensitive and impressively intelligent at the same time.

The Washington Times

Anyone stuck behind the wheel as traffic creeps along the Capital Beltway could use Steven Gellman's latest offering, a lighthearted collection of folk music that conjures up images of lush pastures and sunny getaways. "Return to Summer Lake" is a coffeehouse offering pure and simple. Each song tells a story from the life of the Germantown artist, amid a backdrop of strumming guitars and vocal harmonies. Mr. Gellman succeeds as a stress reliever. His tunes evoke images of a softly lighted room where he dances and drinks wine with his beloved. He takes listeners to the Irish countryside and a Cape Cod porch for a sip of lemonade. Although he has landed gigs in venues such as the Birchmere Music Hall in Alexandria and the White House, this local singer-songwriter still performs in nursing homes and retirement communities. Pop "Return to Summer Lake" into the CD player at the end of a long day, after slipping under a blanket and boiling a cup of tea.

The Advocate

Song titles like "Big Comfy Slippers," "Home Sweet Home," and "A New England Town" are a sure tip-off that this is an acoustic folk album in the John Denver vein. Gellman's specialty is extolling the virtues of quiet living and simple pleasures with his reedy tenor and easygoing guitar strums. He's the kind of songwriter who can produce a tune called "Cattitude" and have it actually be about his cat instead of, say, the snitty drag queen in the apartment next door. Even the most overtly queer song, "Just Like You," downplays the differences and emphasizes the commonality between two small-town neighbors. Fortunately, Gellman adds enough sonic textures (fiddles, flutes, accordions) to give the music depth without sounding inorganic. Nor is everything as perfectly sunny as you might assume – "A Little Bit Fine" is about a terminally ill young woman, and "Momma Look Sharp" is a solemn reading of the mournful song from 1776. But overall, as the album's title suggests, this one is best heard while relaxing on the back porch of your summer cabin.

The Worcester Phoenix

Maryland singer/songwriter Steven Gellman has established himself as one of the East Coast's most promising new artists with his second CD, *Return to Summer Lake*. The title track reaches a transcendence that the likes of Pink Floyd spend millions trying to approach. By allowing his supporting cast of musicians (which includes disappear fear's SONiA, Peter and Maura Kennedy, and Mollie O'Brien) to shine through en naturalé (you can hear every click of the guitar strings and the uniqueness of the backing vocals), Gellman has created one of the most enjoyable, and honest, discs to show up in years.

Music Monthly

Mostly acoustic pop/rock with a torch song and some country/folk tossed in, that's what you'll find on Steven Gellman's love loss longing. Gellman has sort of a John Denver-ish voice in the way he hangs on to a note and floats the vibrato and carries the sentiment of his lyrics. From a beautiful version of "Shenandoah" at the opening Gellman presents tangible proof that he is in touch with his feelings. He has written some good songs for this CD and surrounded himself with some experienced and tuneful side men and women.

PAMusicScene.com

Steven Gellman is a master songwriter, his passion is telling stories with his songs. *Peaceful World* is a collection of brilliantly crafted folk masterpieces that pull you into another world for your mind's eye to explore. On a level playing field with any CD you would pull off of a rack at FYE, from the glossy shrink wrapped package, to the amazing production value complete with crisp acoustic guitars, angelic 3 part harmonies and Steven's super clean vocals.