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swissmiss heimweh

Heimweh, the new album, by Swiss Miss, may be the concept album to end all concept albums. The musical brainchild of New York based Swiss musicians Eliane and Andra Borlo, the album brings together a dazzling variety of Swiss female vocalists performing renditions of traditional Swiss folk songs representing many geographic regions and dialects of Switzerland on a backdrop of the music of the Americas: Jazz, latin, Brazilian, blues, reggae, calypso and soul are all part of the ingredients which make up this musical smorgasbord.

As musicians, both Eliane and Borlo have forged illustrious career paths in the New York City music scene, performing with some of the finest musicians in the city, genre hopping from jazz to latin and electronic.

The Swiss Miss project is a beautifully conceived consolidation of these experiences in the New York music scene and their experiences as woman having grown up in Switzerland, successfully bringing together their Swiss lives and New York lives in what must certainly be a remedy for "Heimweh". As producers, they have drawn upon both the instrumentation and vocal arrangements the best of both worlds, not only sonically but culturally; the 12 Swiss female vocalists whose voices can be heard on the album in addition to their own represent many and varied ethnic groups and age brackets; the New York instrumentalists likewise. Add to this the juxtaposition of traditional alpenhorn player Eliana Burki and the 21st century sounds of human beatbox master Nino G., and you have a musical United Nations. The idea is beautiful, but the bottom line is that together these musicians have made a well crafted album of material that will provide listening pleasure for Swiss nationals for whom the folksongs are deliciously familiar as well as fans everywhere of great American music.

Swiss listeners will be curious to hear these modern renditions of folkslieder such as *S'isch mer alles eis ding*, *Ganteral* and *Guggisbaerger Lied*, whereas American listeners will be introduced to this rich musical lore in familiar musical settings. The vocalists brought together for this purpose are NUBYA, MIA AEGERTER, GIGI MOTO, CORIN CURSCHELLAS, HIRSUTE, JAMIE WONG LI, IRINA SIMONETA, CHRISTIN MAHO, YOLANDA SCHALLBETTER, CONNIE STADLER, all of whom are photographed in a series of portraits on the album artwork. The New York Swiss Miss rhythm section consists of Jennifer Vincent, Hagar Ben Ari, Abou Diarrassouba, Uri Sharlin and Eliane herself on guitar, percussion and kazoo.

Heimweh means homesickness, but it can also mean longing for some place you miss, not necessarily your homeland. Swiss Miss have recorded an album that will make them feel connected to New York when in Switzerland and will always give a taste of a far off Swiss home when in New York.

Read our interview with Eliane of Swiss Miss
Listen to an excerpt from Heimweh *lueget vo bärg und tal* featuring Jamie Wong Li
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