

BIO

Meridian Green — Bringing Americana Back Home

Meridian Green's original Americana folk fusion moves down the back roads of country music to the earthy rhythms of hoedowns, Motown, Brazilian jazz and Celtic jigs. With a voice described as angelic, she takes her listener on a journey through a lively neighborhood where the deeply personal lives next door to the purely fictional and flirts with the downright political.

Daughter of folk music legend Bob Gibson, Meridian grew up in Greenwich Village, enchanted by the magic of live music and songs well sung. After coming to live on the Mendocino coast in Northern California, she first performed Romanian czardas, Portuguese fado, and Appalachian and ragtime tunes with the Gypsy Gulch International String Band, and later, bluegrass and country rock with former Byrds member, Gene Parsons. After more than 20 years of playing to enthusiastic audiences and garnering rave reviews, her expanding repertoire of original material has her on the road to new acclaim as a solo artist.

Meridian has one solo and two duet albums to her credit, as well as guest appearances on a variety of other

recordings. Her work has been featured in the New York Times, BBC Radio, Vintage Guitar and Dirty Linen. She has performed at festivals everywhere — from the Healdsburg Guitar Festival in California, to the Owen Sound Festival in Canada, to d'Or L'Eglise in France.

Her nightclub and coffeehouse appearances include Godfrey Daniels in Pennsylvania, Freight & Salvage in Berkeley, California, The Bottom Line in New York City and The Greys in Brighton, UK. She has sung with Tom Paxton, Geoff Muldaur, Mary McCaslin and many others. In addition to her writing and performing, Meridian is the co-creator of Fender's popular guitar accessory, the Parsons/Green B-Bender.

In a world full of performing songwriters, Meridian's uniquely beautiful voice and wittily engaging world view are an irresistible invitation to audiences to keep coming back for more.



"It'd be more surprising if Meridian Green weren't an angelic voiced singer...she more than lives up to her heritage."

John Foyston
THE OREGONIAN

"...good vibes, brilliant musicianship and heartfelt humanism...utterly charmed the enthusiastically knowledgeable sell-out audience with...superb playing and great choice of material..."

Graham Painting
BRIGHTON ARGUS



RECORDINGS



In the Heart of This Town

“

“That lovely voice opens the door and one is drawn into the music itself...with all the edginess and genre-tension [that is] a hallmark of this release...the listener wants to come back for more.”

Bob MacKenzie
SOUND BYTE

“...Green has a sure way with words. Musically the songs range from jazzy melodies to country-rockers. Green's melodies are catchy and strong. This is a gentle, classy album full of musical and lyrical wonders. Strongly recommended!”

Alf Storrud
FOLK & ACOUSTIC MUSIC EXCHANGE

“...each song on the album is dripping with heartfelt emotion and blessed with polished eloquent lyrics...everyone who hears the album gets a big fat smile on their face...”

John McClure
VICTORY REVIEW

“... a wonderfully diverse collection that highlights both Green's high, delicate voice and writing and arranging skills...a lovingly crafted, warm disc worth seeking out.”

Mike Parrish
DIRTY LINEN

“...a delightful, if somewhat understated, country-rock album. Green stands high on her own merits.”

RELIX #52

”

Meridian Green's recording, *In the Heart of This Town*, was the first CD released on StringBender Records. Her musical roots grew out of being folk legend Bob Gibson's daughter, and she later blossomed as country/rock originator Gene Parsons' musical partner. This album is a collection of mostly original songs about a sense of place and time spent, and matters of the heart.

In the Heart of This Town opens with *Listen To The Thunder*, by Jane Gillman, a country ballad acknowledging the precariousness of all of our lives with “isn't it a wonder you're still here.” *Birds Fly South* is a haunting song about being bound to one place in a migratory world. *Just Away* was recorded with Bill Bottrell and Dan Schwartz of the Tuesday Music Club. *The Lorax (In Laytonville)*, a cajun-y tune, is based on a true story about a small town effort to ban a Dr. Seuss book. *Sarah Lou* looks at the universal longing to “...light up my daddy's eyes.” *Song For Sienna* is about the cathedral a Renaissance community built “in the heart of this town.” *Come On Wind* is an invitation to live one's dreams. *Where Does Time Go?* is a slightly Brazilian and Andean tinged tune. *Abilene* has a slow, sweet patina of New Orleans. *Hometown* is a parade of a song, rejoicing in having a home.

“The moment between meaning to begin this recording project and having begun it was when I decided to dedicate the project to *building community through music*. The title comes from the line in *Song for Sienna*, which was inspired by the cathedral that took the people of Sienna three hundred years to build. When I stood in the cathedral, I was in the presence of faith and love and a commitment to building for the future that made me feel cherished by my ancestors. When I left the cathedral it was with a longing to find a way to send my love and esteem to future generations.

“Within days of my decision to dedicate the project to *building community through music*, and naming this recording project *In The Heart of This Town*, came the news that our little village of Caspar, California was for sale. Once a lumber company-owned mill town, Caspar is now a sleepy village overlooking the Pacific Ocean. To me it seems as if the benevolent universe heard my desire to build community through music and gave me the gift of this opportunity to work with my friends and neighbors to create a sustainable village for the next hundred years.

“I don't know where *building community through music* will lead. Reality is already beyond my wildest dreams. Here in Caspar and everywhere I travel, I love to be with people making music. Let's sing our hearts out and build a place and preserve a planet where future generations will know that we loved them.”

Meridian Green: Vocal, Guitar
Gene Parsons: Guitar, Banjo, Pedal Steel, Dobro, Bass, Drums, Harmonica, Harmony
Bill Bottrell: Mandocello, B3
Lily Parsons: Bass, Harmony
Michael Hubbert: Clarinet, Soprano Sax, Uilleann pipes
Dan Schwartz: Bass
Paul McCandless: English Horn
Alex deGrassi: Guitar
Gib Guilbeau: Fiddle
Marcie Brown: Cello

Executive Producers: Holly Tannen & Jim Lamb
Producers: Meridian Green, Gene Parsons, Bill Bottrell
Engineers: Jim Lamb, Spenser Brewer, Dan Schwartz, Bill Bottrell
Mastering: Mr. Toads

Live from Caspar

In October of 1999, Meridian Green and Gene Parsons performed in concert at William's Place, Bill Bottrell's studio in Caspar, California. The album's world-class studio sound quality delivers an intimate sonic experience presenting a diverse repertoire rooted in folk, country and bluegrass, and pollinated by everything from Appalachian to Zydeco.

Original songs include *Coast Hotel*, an up-tempo Tex-Mex tale of true love and a

lonesome jukebox, *Chief Seattle*, a haunting reminder of the sacredness of the earth, *Get Up Blues*, which rises and shines with a singing horn section, and *Life Carries On*, a modal waltz for dancing at a wake. Additional songs featured are Gram Parson's *Sin City*, the Stanley Brothers' *Drunkard's Dream*, and a yodeling *Cowboy Girl*. Also included are live versions of previously recorded favorites such as *Just Away*, *California Blues*, *Sweet Desert Childhood*, *Banjo Dog* and *Lookin' for Trouble*.

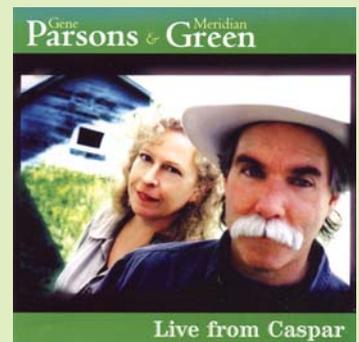
Meridian Green: Vocal, Guitar
Gene Parsons: Vocal, Guitar, Banjo

Producers: Bill Bottrell & Paul Stubblebine
Engineer: Roxanne Weber
Mixing & Mastering: Paul Stubblebine

“

“This is an enjoyable live set...often blending sweet harmonies, they perform a mix of original material, classics from Jimmie Rodgers and Carter Stanley, and nods to the Burritos and Steve Goodman.”

Mike Regenstrief
SING OUT!



“...this live set captures myriad angles on the duo's deep Americana roots. Live from Caspar...blends strategic covers and like-minded originals, with a few crowd-pleasers thrown in for good measure...It's not easy to dismiss this duo's masterful folk/blues/country melange”
SING OUT!

.....

Birds of a Feather

Meridian Green and country rocker Gene Parsons joined forces in 1986, melding their distinct musical identities and recording *Birds of a Feather*.

The album opens with a cooking country rock version of *Don't Miss Your Water* and moves swiftly to the title track, *Birds of a Feather* — a Parsons Green original. On Steve Goodman's *Looking For Trouble*, Meridian's vocal shines with a smoky roadhouse flavor and *California Blues* chugs down the steel rails of this Americana classic like a pedal steel and harmonica powered locomotive. A lively original bluegrass instrumental, *Lily's Hotbread*, is marked by sparkling acoustic guitar work while *No, You're Not Broken* showcases a folk-pop beat and catchy melody, augmented by soaring harmonies.

The banjo and a choir of harmonies highlight the joyous bluegrass-gospel number, *Swing Down*, and on Michael Smith's *Spoon River*, intimately entwined voices journey through history, haunted by a timeless sounding banjo and an antique echo harmonica. Parsons' and Gib Guilbeau's *Wind & Rain* evokes the longing to be home from the road while Meridian's and Gene's folk rock arrangement of Donovan's *Catch The Wind* boasts a bright high-strung guitar and symphonic harmonies. The album concludes with *Quiet Joys of Brotherhood*, a Richard Farina lyric, set to a primordial Celtic melody sung a capella with dense modal harmonies.

Meridian Green: Vocal, Guitar
Gene Parsons: Vocal, Guitar, Banjo, Pedal Steel, Bass, Drums, Harmonica

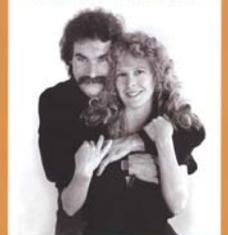
Peter Oliva: Bass (on *Don't Miss Your Water* & *California Blues*)

Richie Rosenbaum: Drums (on *Don't Miss Your Water* & *California Blues*)

Producers: Meridian Green, Gene Parsons, Lewis Demetri
Engineer: Lewis Demetri

PARSONS GREEN

BIRDS OF A FEATHER



“This recording is eclectic, with an emphasis on strong vocals...I enjoyed this one so much, I played it ten times in a row”

OFF THE RECORD

“... a very homespun, unpretentious album that is full of wonders and surprises, which succeeds on all levels.”

DOWN HOME MUSIC

”

CREDITS

Meridian's songs have been featured in the following...

The Lorax (in Laytonville) in the Fairfield Theatre's play *The Lorax*
The Los Angeles School Children's Choir performed *Chief Seattle Song for Sienna* was featured in the book *Art Inspired by Architecture*
Bo Williams arranged *Song for Sienna* for church choral performance
Birds of a Feather was the soundtrack on a Habitat For Humanity video
PBS show, *California Connected*, featured Meridian's live performance of *Miracle*

She co-produced Holly Tannen's *Rime Of The Ancient Matriarch*

She has sung on...

Chuck McCabe's *Bad Gravity Day*
Julian Dawson's *Hillbilly Zen*
Antonia Lamb's *Amazing Tracks*
Little World (for the California Ocean Sanctuary) with Bonnie Raitt, Booker T and others

Her work as a community builder has been featured in...

The New York Times
BBC Radio
California Connections

She has been a guest on numerous radio shows, including...

Mountain Stage, Charlottesville, WV
West Coast Weekend, San Francisco, CA



PERFORMANCES

For more than 20 years Meridian has performed her music at numerous venues, both nationally and internationally. These are but a few.

The Bottom Line

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

Godfrey Daniels

BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA

Freight & Salvage Coffee House

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

Summerfolk Folk Music Festival

OWEN SOUND, CANADA

Healdsburg Guitar Festival

HEALDSBURG, CALIFORNIA

D'or l'Eglise

FRANCE

The Musician

LEICESTERSHIRE, ENGLAND

Bein Inn

GLEN FARG, SCOTLAND

12 Bar Club

LONDON, ENGLAND

Wild Iris Folk Festival

BOONVILLE, CALIFORNIA

MusikMesse

FRANKFURT, GERMANY

