

Paul Pasch – “Tornado Sky”



By Don DiMuccio
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It's hard to ignore the ever-increasing common factor that many of the best new regional CD releases to cross my desk consist of artists who rank themselves among the members of RISA, The Rhode Island Songwriter's Association. Like a wellspring of raw talent flowing into the collective consciousness of fans of thought-invoking lyrics with beautiful instrumental accompaniment, RISA is a bastion of musical faculty and forte. A great example of such is Paul Pasch, a thirty year veteran of the New England singer-songwriter-performing grind, who remarkably after all this time finally released his debut project “Tornado Sky”.

More than simply yet another writer, Pasch is a gifted aesthete in the rare art of storytelling. Whether playful, wistful, or mournful, he demonstrates an ability to pull the listener into his given frame of mind by weaving the songs with an unaffected language that is clear and thus exceedingly effective. His voice (and frankly his appearance) resembles a latter-day Kenny Rogers (sans facelift & Botox injections..). But that's pretty much where those similarities end. Paul Pasch has a sincerity in his songs that is only exceeded by his abundant life experience, which is discernibly evident to a track.

Recorded under the keen production eye of Jack Gauthier at the perennial favorite Lake West Studio, “Tornado Sky” is a man and his guitar, with minimal adornment. Though Paul Pasch does receive a little help from his RISA friends Mary Ann Rossoni, Kevin Fallon and Jarrod Hartley, it is his own performance that makes this record an awfully personal testament. On several tracks Pasch is found singing of intense love, presumably to his wife of thirty years Susan. One beautiful example is “Just Fall”: *“Well it's been thirty years or so now since we met by chance that night – and I know I haven't always been some guiding shining light ... There's no greater thrill at all than to lose myself in you and just fall”*.

Paul gives us insight to the father/son relationship from another emotional vestibule on “Angry Boy”: *“Late at*

night you're searching all around till you find him drunk and mean – You drag him out into the checkered cab, another fight you had to get in between ... All along the road to his grave time took the toll but you had to pay – No way now to ever save or get back those lost days”.

Of course, no self-respecting songwriter worth his weight in gold would neglect including an overtly political and timely song. And on “I Could Be Wrong” Pasch has done just that: *“The politicians are running the country into the ground, it's plain to see – In a vote for Tweedle Dee or Tweedle Dum it's always Tweedle Dum of course.”* Pasch even shows a surprisingly playful side with the bawdy little ditty “Johnsonville Faire”: *“Wear that red lipstick, a spot of rouge on your cheek, and when you open up your mouth honey you don't have to speak - And you can ride the pony, going up & down - Slide up on the white one and I'll watch you going around.”*

Paul Pasch is an artisan who knows his way around a melody and the written word. It's little surprise that he was a finalist in last year's Rick's Music World's Open Mic contest and is a featured performer at New England's best songwriter showcases. If there is a correlation between experience and success, one can only anticipate great things to come for this thoughtful and talented creator.

