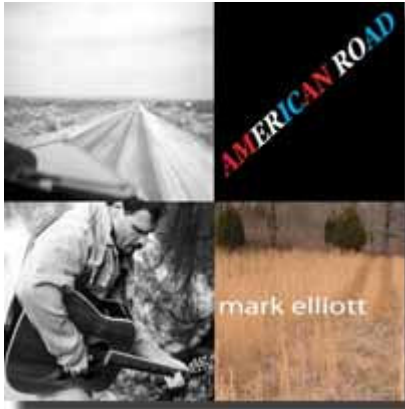


CD Reviews



**Mark Elliott
'American Road'**

(Cub Creek Records CCR-1967c)

Singer, songwriter, Mark Elliott has recently released one of the finest albums I've heard so far this year. His new album, *American Road* celebrates Mark's arrival among America's songwriting greats. For example, here's the first verse from the title cut:

*I am an Irish lad walking through Ellis Island
I left my native land to see what dreams I'll find
These two hands will work and fight to build for me a better life
Where I'll go God only knows, walkin this American road ...*

American Road is intelligent, witty, sophisticated, and stylish. It's the kind of album that snares new fans and keeps longtime supporters more than satisfied. More eclectic than electric, *American Road* is an acoustically charged, high-powered collection of smart songs and irresistible charm.

His songwriting skills shine in lyrics such as this line from *Message In A Bottle* which talks about a young boy at a summer church camp retreat. He picks up a whiskey bottle and polishes it off with some buddies: "...I chugged it down with my two best friends For me it was religion, for them it was sin..." Brilliant writing, Mark!

Within the twelve songs presented on *American Road*, Elliott examines a range of emotions and issues we all face at various times in our lives. There's optimism that rings true in the cleverly written and arranged - *Baseball and Beatles*, the pathos of *Ride out of Reno* and even a song destined to be a true classic, the opening track, and title cut, *American Road*. Mark says "it's a song about a journey, a sojourn told through the eyes of travelers who have come before - ultimately, it asks the question of my own providence, my own *American Road*." Mark looks at our place in the natural world, celebrates life and creates real harmonic convergence with the soul-filled spiritual power of doing what you love, and loving what you do best.

As a writer, Elliott is taken seriously by major media -- He is a well-published (Sony/ATV Music) Nashville recording artist with his songs having been covered by major label artists and performed both in the United States and internationally.

Mark Elliott's latest recording, *American Road* explores an internal dialogue of hope, regret, fear, and ultimately triumph of the human spirit. Highly recommended.

Review by Ben Kettlewell

information: **website:** <http://www.markelliottmusic.com/>

Cub Creek Records
8552 Cub Creek Road
Nashville, TN 37209