



Eliza Gilkyson has started gaining attention during the past five years but she's been recording since she was a teenager in 1969! None of her early recordings can compare to what she's been doing lately and especially the stunning new cd "Paradise Hotel." Her father Terry was a famous songwriter (Disney's "The Bare Necessities" among others) and it seems that since he died she's been able to channel his talents for her own songs.

She uses her subtle falsetto on the opening track "Borderline" over a simple up-tempo folk arrangement, emphasizing the perfect voice she has for this type of music. She doesn't have the twang that many other Americana female singers possess and it works for her. "Man of God" comes off as a political diatribe set to a gospel melody, it is decidedly "blue state" oriented but well worth the listen no matter which side you're on. She sings of ugliness while never seeming that way herself. That's followed by "Jedidiah 1777" which tells of her real life ancestor who fought in the revolutionary war with the "other" President George. On "Bellarosa" she has written a song in English, had it translated to Spanish and sings it that way. There's a wonderfully unexpected cover of World Party's "Is It Like Today", some honky tonk in "Calm Before The Storm" and an almost folk-classical piece called "Requiem".

Eliza Gilkyson continues to bring passionate dignity to Americana music with her understated vocals and lots of acoustic guitars, mandolins, dobros and pedal steel all wrapped around some great songs. "Paradise Hotel" is an album as complete as they come. You'll be hoping in vain for an extra "hidden" track to keep the good feeling going.