

Album: *Barroom Mirrors*

Artist: Erin Enderlin

This summer, Erin Enderlin celebrated the 15-year anniversary of the cover of her song “Last Call” by legendary vocalist Lee Ann Womack. A co-write with Shane McNally, the song reached no. 14 on the Billboard Hot Country Songs list, became a major hit and career staple for Womack, and garnered a Grammy Award nomination for Female Vocal Performance of the Year. While these achievements certainly have much to do with Womack’s masterclass performance, the true heart of the song is firmly cemented in Enderlin’s superb songwriting ability. Ability that has found its way in adding to the storied catalogs of Luke Bryan, Terri Clark, Alan Jackson, Reba McEntire, Randy Travis, and the list goes on.

While Enderlin has contributed to several other musician’s journeys, she remains an astounding Country music musician in her own right. Her latest *Barroom Mirrors* serves as a staunch reminder of her razorsharp ability to commit and execute fully on a selected theme. As the title suggests, these are assuredly drinking songs. Yet with a musician of Enderlin’s caliber, there are always considerable layers of depth, range, and observation even for the most subtle listener.

Opener “White Wine Fever” is a rockin’ swampy romp that is a striking comparison to the somber “Cut Through Me,” which features a gorgeous harmony from none other than Roseanne Cash. “Somebody’s Shot of Whiskey” showcases Enderlin’s tireless ability to frame a chorus that sticks like mountain honey to the lips. Yet it’s the songwriting tour de force of “Weddings, Funerals, & Empty Hotel Bars” that centers the entire collection. An honest, painful reflection of returning home that begs any finger to press repeat for another listen. In such a full career catalog, this is a strong contender for Enderlin’s Top five at least, and further some of the best Country songwriting offered so far in 2023. The radio-ready “Not Enough Tequila” and Folk-leaning “Livin’ for Today” are destined to be covered by other artists in the near future, but here, these belong fully to Enderlin’s expertly delivered vocals.

The Arkansas native continues to forge ahead in creating new thematic arenas with each and every single release. Just like aging whiskey, Enderlin’s artistry only continues to deepen in taste and linger with impact.