

Author: Jean Bartlett (www.bartlettbiographies.com)
Portraits & Roots
Liner Notes from the Arlis Tyner record "Easy Street."

LINER NOTES

Arlis Tyner – Easy Street

A cup of java under a buttermilk sky and the gold flutter of wheat as a train chugs by in glory – you can barely dream such a sound and now you've got it right here on Arlis Tyner's "Easy Street."

I met Arlis Tyner at San Francisco's underground railway. This is the place where fast trains and buses meet. Where commuters fall like so many coins through ticket bearing turnstiles. This way Market Street, this way Montgomery, this way Sutter, Post, this way home. Arlis has himself a spot where the acoustics sweep down on the weary and the driven, and he sings. He sings and he plays his guitar with a voice and a strum that often stops runaway shoes in mid step for just that one chance to have a wee listen to paradise. People put their bills in his open guitar case – mostly ones, sometimes fives, sometimes more – because they have to do something to explain just what it is that has suddenly made their day so right.

You are going to hear that sound on this CD. You're going to hear a vocal that brings to mind a little bit of Woody Guthrie, or maybe even a little bit of Ronnie Milsap, mixed with old backwater jazz and something else, something that only Arlis has the market on. Old and great standards, songs such as "At Last," "Make Someone Happy," "That's All," "You've Changed," "Cheating Heart," "Cottage for Sale," "Since I Fell For You," "Cry Me A River" and "Easy Street," pour out sweet and clear, like a story in long need of being told. Newer songs, "Rainy Days And Mondays" and "King Of The Road," just kind of settle up warm in rhythm and ease. On this CD you're going to hear a man, his voice and his pawn shop "find" guitar. It's about as simple and beautiful as a stroll down Heaven's own byway.



Jean Bartlett

© December 2003

Arts Correspondent, *Pacifica Tribune*

~ ~ ~

To have a sweet listen to the vocals of Arlis Tyner, click into his YouTube station: [Music by Arlis.](#)