

PULLING ON STRINGS

THE NEW CD FROM JANET FELD

Recommended tracks

Pulling on Strings
How Can I Let Go of My Fear?
Don't Kick the Dead Man

Boston-area singer-songwriter Janet Feld has a knack for drawing on intense feelings from her private life and weaving them into music that has universal appeal.



In her new CD, *Pulling on Strings*, Feld sings about the dark and light sides of love and life, exploring family, fears, war and relationships.

SINGING FROM THE HEART

"These songs are some of the most personal songs I've ever written," she says. "I'm getting a very strong response when I perform them live. People come up to me afterward and want to talk to me about these songs."

That's because Feld is able to express her feelings about people – and especially herself – in a way that is accessible to all. "How Can I Let Go of My Fear?" touches on issues that we've all dealt with at one time or another. On "Here We Go Again," she laments not only about the cruelty of war but its inevitability ("When the bodies are counted and the peace treaties signed, how long till we do it again?").

A GREAT ESCAPE

The album finishes off with a thoroughly engrossing true story ("Rosalie's Diamonds") that describes how Feld's grandmother rescued her family from Nazi-occupied Austria in the late '30s.

Feld has a lighter side, too, and that's evident as she celebrates tenderness and devotion with "True Love" and "After All This Time." In the title track, she recalls fond memories of her mother ("She's gone a long time but I believe she's pulling on strings for me").

PRODUCED IN PORTUGAL

Recorded and mixed in the Azores, the arrangements are crisp but subtle, allowing the lyrics – as well as Feld's deft acoustic guitar playing – to come to the fore. The 11-song album is also flavored with Portuguese instrumentation.

Here's what folks were saying about her previous CD, *Tick Tock World*

"Janet's guitar work is as poetic as her writing. This is a lovely album!"

Dar Williams
Singer-songwriter

"Janet Feld is a funny, literate and thoughtful country folkie in the mold of Mary Chapin Carpenter. The Somerville resident has a gift for a lilting melody and a thoughtful turn of phrase."

Sarah Rodman
Boston Herald

So how does a nice Jewish girl from Somerville, Mass., wind up recording a CD on a Portuguese island in the middle of the Atlantic? Certainly not by design.

While vacationing overseas two summers ago, however, Feld bumped into recording engineer (and local music legend) Luis Bettencourt at a Portuguese airport and the two struck up a friendship. The result was a mutual respect for each other's musical talents – and one very memorable album.