

Eleanor McEvoy

☆☆☆☆

Early Hours MARKET SQUARE

Rich textures, beautiful songs and no regrets from the writer of *A Woman's Heart*.



It would be a tragedy – given the exquisite, understated magnificence and warmth of these 42 minutes – if all

Eleanor McEvoy were remembered for is *A Woman's Heart* (to date, the best selling Irish album ever). 2001's *Yola* refocused her on songwriting basics while pushing the aural envelope with analogue production and SACD mixing/mastering – winning hi-fi awards in the process. *Early Hours* builds an entire sonic civilisation on that foundation, adding Irish jazz maestro Linley Hamilton on sublime trumpet/flugelhorn and Calum MacColl on gorgeous, liquid electric guitar. Retaining the *Yola* dream team of Van Morrison sidemen Liam Bradley (percussion), Brian Connor (piano) and bassist Nicky Scott, this is a band to die for. With Eleanor's Dido-before-Dido voice and some of the best happy/sad songs she's ever written (plus deconstructed classics by Chuck Berry and Bert Jansch), this is her *White Ladder*, her *Life For Rent*. A triumph.

Colin Harper