

琴聲繚繞 Gaelic charm

Katie Targett-Adams will take you on a relaxing but evocative journey, writes George Palathingal

George Palathingal認為，Katie Targett-Adams的音樂能讓人放鬆心情，感覺如身處高原之上

Are you sitting comfortably? You certainly will be after half an hour or so in the company of Katie Targett-Adams and her clarsach.

The Scotswoman is incredibly popular in Asia and in China is all but an honorary Chinese – and the clarsach is her weapon of choice: a Celtic harp which, she tells us in the liner notes, “dates from about the 8th century and is the precursor to the full-size orchestral harp”.

The sound is simple but effective, Targett-Adams cooing prettily along as she delicately plucks and strums her instrument, backed only by the restrained acoustic guitar of her principal collaborator, David Clifton.

On *Hush Hush...* they've arranged a number of traditional Celtic folk songs and lullabies (hence the title), created a handful of their own lush tunes and even gone conceptual for the album's centrepiece: a three-piece song suite about doomed 16th-century monarch Mary Queen of Scots, starting with a rendition of the great Scottish poet Robert Burns' *Lament of Mary*.

It's all soothing, evocative stuff – close your eyes and you can almost feel the bracing Highland chill during the familiar likes of *The Braes of Glennifer* or the Gaelic-language *Fear a' Bhata*. Targett-Adams also does a commendable job setting her music to the Robert Louis Stevenson poem *I Will Make You Brooches*.

Finally, as a bonus for her sizeable Asian following, the album ends with a crowd-pleasing version, sung in Mandarin, of Cai Qin's much loved *Just Like Your Tenderness*.

READ our exclusive interview with Katie in *Discovery* magazine, page 50.



Plucky Katie Targett-Adams and her clarsach
Targett-Adams 與其秘密武器——凱爾特豎琴

The album features traditional folk songs and a Mandarin finale

專輯收錄了多首傳統民歌，並以一首國語名曲作結



你坐得舒服嗎？在Katie Targett-Adams的歌聲和凱爾特豎琴的琴音陪伴下，相信約半小時左右，你就會安坐椅中，感到舒適愜意。

這位蘇格蘭女歌手在亞洲和中國內地廣受歡迎，稱她為榮譽中國人也不為過。她還有秘密武器，那就是凱爾特豎琴；她在唱片封套上如此介紹這樂器：「其歷史可追溯至約八世紀，現時標準的演奏用豎琴便是由它演變而來。」

豎琴的琴音簡單而迷人，Targett-Adams一邊熟練地彈撥著豎琴，一邊輕柔地歌唱，為她伴奏的就只有老拍檔David Clifton絕無僅有的木結他聲。

《Hush Hush...》專輯除了改編多首傳統凱爾特民歌和搖籃曲（大碟更因而命名）外，亦有幾首醉人的全新創作。此外，大碟還包含一首概念性的主題作品。這首描述16世紀蘇格蘭瑪麗女王坎坷命運的組曲，由三首歌曲組成，以蘇格蘭偉大詩人Robert Burns的詩歌《Lament of Mary》為序曲。

專輯裡的歌曲都能撫慰人心，閉上眼睛，聽著似曾相識的樂曲如《The Braes of Glennifer》或是蓋爾語的《Fear a' Bhata》，恍惚能感受到高原上那份讓人心曠神怡的涼意。Targett-Adams為Robert Louis Stevenson的詩《I Will Make You Brooches》譜的曲，也十分出色，值得嘉許。

最後，為了答謝廣大亞洲樂迷，她以國語演繹蔡琴的經典名曲《恰似你的溫柔》，為專輯畫上圓滿句號。

本月《Discovery》雜誌同時送上Targett-Adams的人物專訪（第50頁），敬請留意。

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