

winnipegfreepress.com

WINNIPEG FREE PRESS, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2007

SISTER DOROTHY *Kernlieder* (OverGround)

The always eclectic Sister Dorothy's latest is the very definition of a niche recording with covers of 17 Mennonite Kernlieders ("core songs") in German from a hymnal published in 1952. According to a press release (since there are no helpful liner notes to explain the origin of the material) the songs from the 17th through 19th centuries were once at the heart of Mennonite church services and sustained members of the religion through hard times in Ukraine. The mellow selections on the 28-minute disc have been reworked with new arrangements by the songwriter for voice, guitar and flute. It's hard to fault something so dear to her heart, but ultimately it's hard to recommend to anyone except those with an interest in Mennonite musical history or ethnomusicologists. ★★

—RW