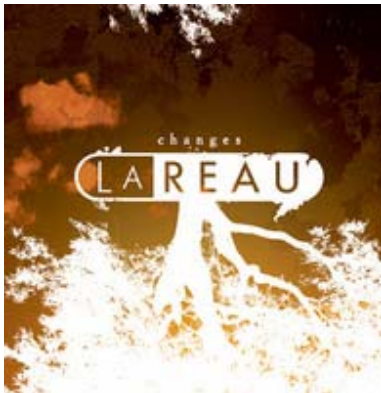


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LAREAU

Changes

(Rust-Nashville)

It's odd these days to hear a rock album released by a Nashville-Based company, but that's exactly what "Changes" is – a rock (as opposed to rock `n` roll) album with a very '70's feel. Listening to Lareau, especially Larry Lareau's lead vocals evoke memories of the Little River Band, possibly even a touch of Stealers Wheel. The sound and the feel are present, perhaps strongest in "Feeling the Way I Do," with its punch beat and matching lyrics.

That's not to say Lareau is stuck in the 70's. "Maybe You Think" is a power ballad that shifts gears, presenting highs and lows almost simultaneously over pounding drums and a distinctive piano roll. "Another Life" brings us into the present and the future, perhaps into Neverland: "In another life there's a place we stay young forevermore."

Changes is Lareau's debut CD and, while it shows promise, leaves room to grow. Several of the songs rely too much on a single vocal where group harmony could have raised the sound to another level. Often, I think of the terrific, fairly unknown folk-rock duo Lowen and Navarro. They present a harmonic blend that feels like being wrapped in a comfortable blanket. Adding a harmony vocal to Larry Lareau's own vocals could produce potentially the same feeling.

Their first effort is a worthy one. Let's see what the future holds.

- Gino Misasi