

NASHVILLE CITY PAPER

Martina McBride ****

Timeless

(RCA Records Label)

“It all begins with a song” — the old songwriters’ adage — proves apt in the case of Martina McBride’s newest album, *Timeless*. In her first solo production, McBride pays homage to her roots with an 18-song tribute to country music’s heritage by one of the genre’s present-day greats.

McBride’s choice of “deep cuts” from the history of country singles adds to the record’s appeal. All the greats are represented, but Cash’s “I Still Miss Someone” and Ernest Tubb’s “Thanks a Lot” delve further into song catalogs than most covers.

McBride also turns in a bright and bold version of Anderson’s “(I Never Promised You A) Rose Garden” and a faithful reading of Lynn’s “You Ain’t Woman Enough.”

The songs benefit from faithful arrangements and a live recording. And the disc is not weighed down by the layered, over-produced sound of many modern records.

This is a spot-on performance from a singer completely in sync with her material. McBride selected beautiful tunes, but her winsome and capable voice makes this collection timeless.

—Todd Anderson, *Lifestyle correspondent*