

Pencaitland Review – The Scotsman – 14th June 2011 ***
Jim Gilchrist

Quotes

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Jim Gilchrist, The Scotsman

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FOLK

SOUTHERN TENANT FOLK UNION: PENCAITLAND
JOHNNY ROCK RECORDS, £12.99

STFU's latest album maintains this group's intriguing blend of Scots and bluegrass, traditional and contemporary elements, if not quite maintaining the rivetingly taut vocals of their last album, *The New Farming Scene*. There is an engaging tension still, however, in Ewan MacIntyre's plaintive singing against measured mandolin and guitar of the opening *I Dream of Burning Buildings*, while the enigmatic title track is atmospheric, with sonorous rumbles of bowed double bass and melancholy harmonica against a stealthy ticking of strings. *The Rights and Interests of the Laboring Man* is delivered with a haunting, declamatory keening, although the small pipes fit uneasily, while a song setting of Yeats's *An Irish Airman Foresees His Death* seems a bit perky sounding for the subject matter.

Ida Won't Go fairly cracks along, with Adam Bulley's mandolin and Carrie Thomas's fiddle really getting into their stride.
JIM GILCHRIST

<http://living.scotsman.com/features/Album-reviews-Sophie-EllisBextor-.6781016.jp>