

DORI FREEMAN

Every Single Star



Dori Freeman first broke out in 2016, with a stunning debut produced by **Teddy Thompson** and a sparkling voice that seemed to come from out of nowhere. Her songs were brittle, cracked, infused with heartbreak and seeming to speak for women everywhere, channeling Appalachian women in a way that harkened back to Loretta Lynn. NPR spoke of her “bruised sort of romanticism” and Noisy referenced her “heart-wrenching moments.” Freeman had written her first album on the heels of a failed relationship, a suddenly-single mother in a small town. There was a bitter taste in her songwriting that reflected the fiercely independent streak Appalachian women are known for and her own lack of patience for bullshit. Three years later, she’s now happily married (to drummer Nick Falk), and her new album, *Every Single Star*, to be released **September 13, 2019** on **Blue Hens Music** (her second album on her own label after 2017’s *Letters Never Read*), features a very different perspective. She’s writing songs now for her new love, and for her daughter, as beholden as ever to the traditions that first inspired her as a young girl growing up in Galax, Virginia, but full of the same incisive eye for the human condition that’s always been her hallmark.

Still, she wonders how she’ll be perceived now that she’s writing songs as a contented mother, and not as a jilted lover. “People don’t really talk about motherhood in the music industry,” she says. “Musicians that are also moms and have to juggle touring and being at home and spending enough time with your child; that’s something that’s really hard for me to find balance in. It was helpful to write about my daughter on my new album and to have songs that are about her so I could feel like she was part of the record. I don’t think there’s a lot of support for mothers in the industry.” Like any great songwriter, though, Freeman’s not content to work just from her own perspective, so some of the songs on the new album come from imagined characters or stories from close friends. “I’ve definitely focused on the perspective of women in my songwriting,” Freeman says. “I like to write about things I’ve been through because I know that pretty much every other woman has likely been through those same things. Listening to music written by other woman has been helpful to me as well. And it’s nice to write about good situations too, not just focus on the negative.”



Release Date

**SEPT. 13,
2019**

Returning to New York to record the new album, Freeman worked again with producer Teddy Thompson, the son of Richard and Linda Thompson. The years since her first impulsive Facebook message to him have seen a deep trust settle between them, and Thompson pushes Freeman to some of her best work here, and joins her for a duet on the song “2 Step.” Fellow songwriter Sam Evian engineered the album, which was recorded at Figure 8 Studios in just five days. At the time of recording, Freeman had been listening to a lot of Linda Ronstadt and Emmylou Harris, focusing specifically on their Trio work with Dolly Parton. Ronstadt and Harris are evergreen inspirations for Freeman, in her constant rotation and “All I Ever Wanted” on the new album was heavily inspired by Ronstadt.

Tracklist

1. That’s How I Feel
2. All I Ever Wanted
3. Like I Do
4. You Lie There
5. Another Time
6. Go On
7. Darlin’ Boy
8. Walls Of Me And You
9. 2 Step
10. I’ll Be Coming Home

Though she’s been to New York over thirty times in the past few years, she still seems a stranger to the city, happier in her rural home on four acres in Virginia. She’s fiercely and unapologetically Appalachian, and speaks to a kind of progressive cultural renaissance happening in the Blue Ridge Mountains region. “By being here and making music and not changing my opinions or beliefs, just having my presence here and peers my age who live here and are like minded, I think it’s like a new counterculture in its own way,” Freeman says. “Just our presence here helps to shape Appalachia and push it in a new direction.” But she’s quick to point that a progressive streak has always been a part of Appalachia, especially among Appalachian women. “I think there’s always been a streak of resistance in Appalachia and maybe this is the next generation of that.” Unafraid to speak her mind, inspired by generations of powerful women who came before her, **Dori Freeman’s** new album, *Every Single Star*, may seem full of hope, but she’s got plenty of fight left in her.



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