



## CLARA SANABRAS - HOPETOWN HOUSE

2009

SMUDGED DISCS

HARVEY BROUGH: PRODUCER, ARRANGER

\*\*\*\* HOPETOWN HOUSE - DECEMBER 2009 - MUSICIAN MAGAZINE

Drawing on travelling experiences, Barcelona-born Clara has compiled a fascinating document featuring a colourful palette of instruments, influences and styles, as well as a number of top musicians including Andy Hamill (bass), Mike Outram (guitar) and Julian Siegel (clarinet). Packaged with a beautiful and detailed booklet, the material slips from the speakers with deceptive charm, capturing the head and heart in equal measure. Joy, sadness and optimism ride upon the strands Clara weaves with her beguiling songwriting and the refined touches supplied by premier producer, Harvey Brough. A delight throughout.

\*\*\*\* HOPETOWN HOUSE - JANUARY 2010 - UNCUT

"Clara Sanabras has some backstory- her past lives including appearing with Al Pacino in The Merchant of Venice and working with Stockhausen. Her second album channels nu-folk ("The Good Ship Father") haunting swing (the title track), and Brechtian cabaret on a dozen adventurous melodies that take unexpected, serpentine turns as she sings (mostly in English) in a dramatic voice over striking chamber arrangements. Her sound sits richly somewhere between Camille, Mariza and Joanna Newsom -a gorgeous place to be."

Nigel Williamson- Uncut Magazine- Jan 2010

# harveybrough.

\*\*\*\* HOPETOWN HOUSE - NOVEMBER 2009 - FINANCIAL TIMES

The Barcelonan singer Clara Sanabras has made London her home. Her first album under her own name is suffused with a romantic urban melancholy that runs through the stylistic variation: country-pop swing, folk, jazz, blues. The title track, dedicated to the writer Roger Deakin, defends local history against the encroachments of the corporate high street. The ever-reliable musical arranger Harvey Brough helps Sanabras craft settings, for London's most cosmopolitan folk musicians, that complement her voice and guitar playing.

\*\*\* HOPETOWN HOUSE - MARCH 2010 - MAVERICK

Clara Sanabras has a remarkable voice- somewhere between Julie Felix and Nora Jones with the phrasing of Jake Thackeray and the musicianship of her band, of the Real Lowdown is astounding. Barcelona born and now a north London resident Ms Sanabras is nothing less than prolific with 17 albums to her name; well not exactly "her name" but she appears on 17 mostly Spanish or Classical albums in some capacity. Hopetown House mixes Clara's observations and experiences in a feminine Scott Walker manner over a range of clever musical arrangements. Tales of an absent father (Good Ship Father); a message on a suitcase (Luggage) and even a friend's paranoia (Not a man of many words) mingle easily alongside songs in her native language. Hopetown House (Songs of Coincidence and Fate) is sumptuously packaged and will probably attract the eye of the casual music buyer in the jazz-world music section of a record shop and will definitely appeal to the readers of the weekend broadsheets who will coo and tweet that they have discovered the new Amy/Nora/Duffy, or whoever as they listen in their Mercedes and Lexus.