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Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Kasey Chamber Barricades and Brickwalls Warner Bros.

With an album cover

photo of a thin brunette with a pierced lip, many people might expect to hear the sounds of a punk rockstar wannabe.

However the audience is in for a pleasant surprise. Kasey Chamber's vocals, which have been compared to Emmy Lou Harris' with a bit of an edge, give listeners a straight shot of old-style country.

Chambers, a 25-year-old from Australia, wrote or co-wrote 12 of the 13 songs on Barricades and Brickwalls, her second album.

"Not Pretty Enough" has a soft ballad beginning and sounds a little like adult contemporary. The third track, "On a Bad Day," features the vocals of alternative country rocker Lucinda Williams with a fiddle in the background accompanied by a strong country beat. Once again, Chambers brings old style country to the album similar to the sounds of the Dolly Parton, Emmy Lou Harris and Linda Ronstadt trio.

The fifth track, "A Little Bit of Lonesome," has a bit of yodeling that might be too hard to swallow for those breaking their ears into country music. In fact, "A Little Bit of Lonesome" sounds like a remake of an old Hank Williams song.

"Million Tears" is a soft, rolling tune that is followed by the eighth track, "Still Feeling Blue," which features a speedy fiddle and is a great two-stepping song.

"Crossfire" crosses into a rougher state of alternative country and "I Still Pray," a religious duet with Paul Kelly, changes the mood of the

Overall, those wanting to break into the

hoping to escape today's mass-produce U country can look for comfort in Chamber's (BIMS). est album. (Grade: B-)

-Lizette Resence

Cory Morrow Outside The Lines Write On Records

title of Morrow's latest CD Outside The Lines, but the

songs on the disc spin well inside the confine of traditional acoustic country. All of the songs are well-produced w

exceptional sound quality, allow Morrow's Merle Haggard and Don William reminiscent sound to come through, but essence of this collection lurks in subtle There are nuances and poetic hints the might escape a casual listener through

Some might categorize the material as sta dard country fare. Others will find straight-toward, unencumbered country stortelli profuse with confessions of personal trium and tragedy. As with all lyrical interpreta and creation, perspective is everything.

Many of the songs for listener enjoym love songs such as "More Than Perfect" "Better Than Being in Love with You" and " difficulty of Over Again." Some swing wide of the romans officials say genre. "In Spite of Spite" bleeds from Morrows religious and spiritual side and requires sone in analysis and an extra listen or two.

The vocal melodies are smooth and intio Maj. Gen. F ng, and the musical accompaniment is is from ground-breaking. All this works to be Morrow's thoughts and feelings come acros without the interference of unique musical

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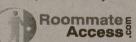
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e Grand Prize of \$10,000 cash and two Runner-Up prizes of \$500 cash each will be awarded to the winning entrant(s). Void in Florida, New York, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, U.S. military installations and where prohibited by law intest is subject to complete official rules. The sponsor of this Contest is Classified Ventures, LLC.