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**Donna De Lory**

**Bliss**

This second album from Donna De Lory -- who made her name as a backup singer and dancer for Madonna on multiple albums and tours -- was originally titled Love Never Dies and credited to her group Bliss, which she co-led with cellist Cameron Stone. Self-produced (and originally self-sold at her shows), it's now Bliss, a showcase for her waifish, dramatic vocals amid world-music-inflected, Enya-like soundscapes of electronics and overdubbed voices.

Despite its exotic accoutrements, Bliss contains some lovely pop melodies, including "Where I've Never Been," in which a harmonium's hum mingles with Stone's cello, and "Te Amo," in which elegant pizzicato strings adorn its whispered, Spanish-language beauty. "Only Time" is a sighing, ethereal melody; "Please" comes across breathily, with evocative touches of acoustic guitar and harmonica; and the frail, plaintive "Hold Me Now" hosts a grinding, unexpectedly rock-styled hook.

De Lory concludes the album with a re-envisioned version of "Amazing Grace," set to droning accompaniment. Fans of Donna De Lory's type of dreamy pop-craft shouldn't remain ignorant of Bliss.

Drew Wheeler

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