Juno nominee for “Children’s Recording of the Year”

Dinosaurs, Dragons and Me is a collection of original songs written by Donna Rhodenizer. There are 12 tracks ranging in style from a lullaby/tango, to bluegrass, to blues and pop. The CD also contains instrumental accompaniment tracks for each song. Some of the finest jazz, blues and bluegrass musicians joined Donna & Andy in the studio to create authentic music stylings, and an enjoyable CD for children and adults alike.

REVIEW:

Ed the Invisible Dragon is the tale of an imaginary creature who causes unexplained mishaps and messes in the household. With saucy sax riffs and the addition of B3 Hammond organ, this tune is the right combination of secret service stealth and mischief.

The Most Important Person showcases Andy’s vocal talents as he provides a different voice for five distinct characters! Each character believes he is the most important person on the ship. It is a bit of a verbal battle, but the Captain wins out in the end!

I Need a Home for my Dinosaur explores the dilemma of having a pet that eats more than he should and must be given away. Tuba and banjo create a good-natured accompaniment that complements and supports the lyrics of this delightful children’s song. I Need a Home for my Dinosaur is one of Donna’s earliest songs for children, and it has become a favourite of many fans, young and old.

Gramma’s Pajamas highlights Gramma’s problems with her lacy pink pajamas. With too much giggling and not enough sleep, Gramma is tired and ready to try almost anything (except giving up her lacy pink “jammies”) to get some rest. The fiddling of Gordon Stobbe and the solid bluegrass guitar and banjo stylings of Greg Simm bring this tune to life and will ensure a special spot in the “favourites” list.

The Best One for the Job focuses on all the things a person enjoys as a unique individual. The lyrics promote self-esteem and the message to “be happy with yourself”. Authentic accordion accompaniment adds a great flavour to this tune.

Cool Bob is a blues tune with attitude. Over the standard I-IV-V-I blues changes, Andy narrates the story of a man and his cat, both known as “Cool Bob” who have learned how to make a living on the street as jazz musicians. If you can snap your fingers, get them ready, you will want to use them on this song!

The “Can’t Wait ‘til I’m Older” Blues examines some of the pitfalls that might occur in the future once we procure those things we all think we want – a car, a great job and a place of our own. The sax takes its turn at wailing the blues during the instrumental third verse.

No More School for Me! welcomes those unexpected holidays when snow limits our ability to leave the house and when staying in bed is the only logical option. Written in a style that could be described as “Leroy Anderson meets mall music” this song is catchy and as delightful as a winter sleigh ride.

Bedtime Tango is written from the perspective of a child who has been sent to bed, but who is not ready to go to sleep. Juxtaposing a lullaby with a tango, this song will either help you sleep or send you searching for a rose to clamp in your teeth as you tango behind closed doors.

Sleep Gently Tiny Child features The Relative Minors (children from Donna’s extended family) accompanied by harp (Jennifer Wyatt) and four-part vocal harmony by Donna & Andy. The combination creates a lovely lullaby, and a quiet gem tucked in amongst the more lively songs in this collection.

Just Passing By was written for Donna’s students who were graduating. The words are thoughtful, inspiring and contain a great message for anyone facing life changes. Andy’s mellow baritone lead voice is supported by Donna and the “Relative Minors”, creating a pop hit.

Raise Up Your Voices celebrates the joy of sharing music with others. With driving percussion, funky bass and even a “wa wa” guitar, this rhythmic celebration of singing is a great finale song for this collection.