

Daughters of Davis - British Soul (2014)

Written by bluelover

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01. *British Soul* (3:32) 02. *Get Back* (2:37) 03. *Is it for Me* (3:35) 04. *Honest Woman* (3:01)
05. *The Trade* (2:47) 06. *Bathsheba* (3:09) 07. *Can We Get Away* (2:53) 08. *Catch Me If You Can* (2:35)
09. *Footprints* (3:39) 10. *The River* (4:14) 11. *Amazing Grace* (2:54)

Fresh from touring with big names such as Rebecca Ferguson and Eels and building up a reputation as one of the hardest working live acts out there, Winchester-based sibling duo Adrienne and Fern Davis here release their second album. Clearly all their hard work is paying off for them as it has already debuted on the iTunes Singer/Songwriter Chart. Proceedings kick off with the quirky-if-lightweight title track which succeeds in drawing the listener in to an album chock full of emotion, thorny subjects and the girls' own inimitable style. Throughout, the Davis sisters put a practical faith perspective on big themes such as sex before marriage in "Honest Woman", insecurity ("Is It For Me?") and depression ("Footprints") whilst "Get Back" seems to be about spiritual warfare and not, as you might think, an intriguing Beatles cover. The Davis' songwriting chops are most evident in the likes of the clever "Bathsheba" which uses biblical imagery to communicate a tale of unrequited love whilst "The River" is a mature piece of writing that hints of great things ahead. Aided by Andy Baker's rootsy production and the inclusion of the odd banjo, slide guitar and mandolin instead of a full blown R&B sound, the girls' harmonising voices take centre stage and, whilst there is no doubting their singing dexterity, the vocal acrobatics can occasionally be distracting and the likes of "Can We Get Away?" and the single "Catch Me If You Can" benefit from a more toned-down approach. A brave reworking of "Amazing Grace" closes another quality release from Daughters Of Davis. --- Lins Honeyman, crossrhythms.co.uk

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