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People, check out Clara Lofaro's *Perfekt World*. I did this morning and at long last, instead of waiting for poor technique and mediocre production to distract me, I was able to sit back, relax and enjoy the music on an indie CD.

Clara is pianist, singer and songwriter on this outing, and it's obvious this isn't her first trip to the recording studio. If you enjoy indie alt rock, this is right up your alley. Replete with jangly guitars, strident piano and a nod here and there to techno influences (in sound FX rather than grooves), Lofaro delivers the goods on *Perfekt World*. She's got a mature voice. She knows her instrument well. She's powerful and soulful, with excellent pitch and control. Her writing explores uncharted sonic territory and returns to the familiar exactly when needed. She delivers the comfort of predictability with the excitement of musical adventure.

Hot spots? "Bitch Go Off" is quirky and sexy trashy street talk delivered in 40s torch-song voice. The cut is just vocals, drums, bass and sound FX. It's very cool. "No Way Home" is street-smart ethnic but we lose the kick and snare when the drums kick in the groove. Pity. "Perfekt World" is a live out-take and there's a great jazzy piano ballad present and accounted for.

My only gripe production-wise is with the dirty guitar tones - they're ratty - and the kick and snare. Kick needs more attack and snare needs more snap. Big deal. However! Avoid "Don't Punish Me". The tonality is nebulous; a problem compounded by the overtones on the kick drum. It sounds as if the song starts in G# minor, with a chorus in G major - and the kick drum rings on a B the whole time. Drove me nuts. Small price to pay for the rest of the CD.

I guess this is what happens when talented Canadians go to New York. It's like moving up to the big league.