

Album review 音樂評選



Cherry on top 成就非凡

Marina Diamandis, aka Marina and the Diamonds, bears *Froot* with her latest album, writes Dorothy So

Dorothy So認為Marina Diamandis (藝名Marina and the Diamonds) 的全新專輯《Froot》效果不俗

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With her theatrical outfits and a stage-name like Marina and the Diamonds, Marina Diamandis has always demonstrated a flair for showmanship. What really makes the Welsh singer-songwriter shine, however, is her ability to back style with substance in the form of hook-soaked melodies and piercingly perceptive lyrics. She brings all these qualities together in *Froot*, her third and strongest record to date.

Composed entirely by Diamandis, *Froot* is inspired by the soundscape of the 1980s. Unlike her overproduced sophomore album *Electra Heart*, this collection strips back on the effects, focusing instead on the singer's rich vocals to anchor its big, atmospheric choruses.

The album deals extensively with Diamandis' desire for freedom from social, romantic and even mortal limitations. She challenges convention by opening with *Happy* – a quiet ballad about finding inner peace – before picking up the volume and tempo with the title track and a string of similar dance-floor stompers. She also tackles typical pop tropes in atypical fashion, analysing the demise of a relationship through the eyes of the heartbreaker (*I'm a Ruin*) while bringing a magnifying glass up to the darkest aspects of human nature (*Savages*). By the time Diamandis reaches the track *Can't Pin Me Down*, her message is crystal clear: she's anything but your average cookie-cutter pop artist.

Smart, sassy and boldly subversive, *Froot* is a fantastic effort from an artist who has ripened with experience.

Marina Diamandis' rich vocals are the focal point of her new album

Marina Diamandis全新大碟的著眼點在於自己渾厚的聲線上

不論是充滿戲劇效果的服裝，還是其藝名Marina and the Diamonds，Marina Diamandis總是展現出過人的表演天分。但真正令這位威爾斯創作歌手發光發亮的，是她能夠將歌曲風格糅合琅琅上口的旋律及精準的歌詞。她在第三張專輯《Froot》當中施展上述所有才華，打造出個人至今最具實力的專輯。

《Froot》整張大碟都是由Diamandis親自作曲，曲風大有1980年代的風格。與過分加工的第二張專輯《Electra Heart》相比，這次全碟12首歌曲都不再倚重特效，而是將重點放在歌手渾厚的聲線上，以支撐起氣勢磅礴的副歌。

專輯主要刻劃Diamandis對擺脫社會、愛情甚至生死束縛的欲望。她在專輯一開始就挑戰傳統，以尋找心靈平靜的慢歌《Happy》作開端，之後再以大碟同名歌曲及一系列曲風類似的跳舞快歌，將節拍全面提升。她亦以非主流手法處理典型流行曲風，在《I'm a Ruin》中以負心人的角度分析一段感情的消逝，並藉《Savages》將人性中最黑暗的一面放大。當Diamandis演繹《Can't Pin Me Down》的時候，她要傳遞的訊息已經顯而易見：自己絕對不是市面上一般倒模式的流行歌手。

《Froot》展現聰明睿智、時髦自信、顛覆傳統的風格，是一位歷盡滄桑的歌手嘔心瀝血的傑作。



Diamandis is anything but your average cookie-cutter pop artist

Diamandis絕對不是市面上一般倒模式的流行歌手