



NEWSLETTER #293

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I.M.G. SALE In addition to the many new releases we are featuring this month, see page 2 for our first ever SALE on the STARDAY, KING, and GUSTO labels. Lots of great items here, at bargain prices!

JSP-77110 BLUEGRASS: INDEPENDENT LABEL SIDES 1951-1954 Those who have latched onto other 4-CD sets from this British label know that you get a huge amount of music for an amazingly reasonable price. There are 100 songs & tunes in this one, and like others on the label it's a small but very attractive package. Not everything is perfect, as some of the selection choices are a bit questionable, and the annotation is just a re-hash of pretty well known facts (and is hard to read, as well). On one of the 4 discs, discographical data is provided for only 4 of the 25 tracks. The set cries out for more and better biographical and discographical data, and at least some of that exists among serious & prudent researchers like Dave Sax, Tom Mindte, Dick Spottswood and others. 8-page booklets—instead of 4-pagers—could add a lot to records like this and would increase the costs only marginally. But let's get to the material presented here, which is a blessing to have, as very little of the early independent label Bluegrass has made it to compact disc so far. Disc 1 contains 25 cuts all from the fine *Blue Ridge* label in North Carolina: this includes Bill Clifton, Wade Mainer, Larry Richardson, Jim Eanes and the Church Bros., among others. Disc 2 is mostly from the old *Kentucky* label (Red Allen, Sonny Osborne & Virginia Trio), but for some reason 2 MGM sides of Red Allen and a couple of Capitol cuts of Jim & Jesse appear, while the rest of the nice Virginia Trio tracks are not to be found. Disc 3 features the rare *Mutual* and *Folk-Star* labels and is perhaps the most interesting of the 4 CDs: there's a lot of good *Dee Stone* material, music by the *Brammer Brothers*, the *Bowes Brothers*, *John Reedy* and *Glen Neaves*, plus classic cuts from *Carl Sauceman* and *Fred Murphy*. Here too 3 odd extra tunes are inexplicably added (one each by Johnnie & Jack, Turner Bros., and the Massey Family—there's no explanation for their inclusion. Disc 4 has odds and ends from *Colonial*, *BRC*, *Excellent*, *Excello*, *Marlboro* and *Silverbell*, as well as a *Security* Label release of Alex & Ola Belle Campbell that very likely pre-dates the scope of this set (1947 or 1948?). The sound quality is at times funky, but is the best that could be brought out of these old 78s by re-mastering expert Chris King. Before the advent of the 45rpm record, there was very little Bluegrass that made its way to record, apart from the handful of major artists like Bill Monroe, Flatt & Scruggs and the Stanleys, etc., so it's a treat to have access to these early efforts, most of which are marked by a real passion and intensity, even though many of the performances are rough as a cob. Any student of Bluegrass will find this set a must. **4-CD set is just \$27.50**



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540-745-2001 * Minimum credit card order is \$25.00 * (Fax) 540-745-2008

SPECIAL SALE OF STARDAY, KING & GUSTO

This month only we are offering all the following CDs at a **SPECIAL SALE PRICE** of just **\$ 7.00 per CD**. There is no minimum and no limit as to how many you can buy! **Offer ends AUGUST 29, 2008**. Please note that at this price these items cannot be counted toward our regular SPECIAL OFFER deal (Buy 6 records and get a 7th CD free)

The I.M.G. group of labels, also known as GUSTO RECORDS, took over the huge and important KING and STARDAY catalogs after a bankruptcy years ago. These labels—headed by the late Syd Nathan and Don Pierce respectively—recorded much of the finest Bluegrass and country music at a time when the major labels would barely touch these genres of music. Their recordings have been repackaged in many different ways, so it is important that the buyer be aware of duplication. But there is a lot of great music here, so look over the list carefully for some wonderful recordings at low, bargain prices!

- GT-0532 WILMA LEE & STONEY COOPER “Waking My Lord Up Calvary’s Hill”
- GT-0545 JESSE McREYNOLDS “Me & My Fiddles” (re-issue of old API LP)
- GT-0547 STANLEY BROTHERS “Songs Of Bill Monroe”
- GT-0569 STANLEY BROTHERS “I’ll Meet You In Church Sunday Morning”
- GT-0627 JIMMY MARTIN “12 Memories”
- GT-0635 STANLEY BROTHERS “Hymns Of The Cross” with George Shuffler
- GT-0637 DON RENO & BILL HARRELL “Bluegrass Gospel”
- GT-0665 DON RENO “Golden Guitar” Great flat pick guitar record!
- GT-0694 LARRY SPARKS & THE LONESOME RAMBLERS “Ramblin” Bluegrass”:
- GT-0696 COUNTRY GENTLEMEN “Bluegrass At Carnegie Hall”
- GT-0697 THE STONEMAN FAMILY “28 Classics”
- GT-0816 BLUE SKY BOYS “Sunny Side Of Life”
- GT-0825 MAC WISEMAN “Bluegrass Tradition”
- GT-0965 BLUE SKY BOYS “Treasury Of Rare Song Gems”
- GT-3002 JIMMY MARTIN & RALPH STANLEY “First Time Together”
- KING-0120 JIM & JESSE “Dixie Hoedown”
- KING-0508 LESTER FLATT “The One & Only”
- KING-0517 CROWE BROTHERS “Jesus Is Coming” good N.C. group
- KING-0529 POP STONEMAN “Gospel Music Treasures”
- KING-0540 STANLEY BROTHERS “Songs Of The Carter Family”
- KING-0541 DON RENO & RED SMILEY “Wanted”
- KING-0542 CABIN ON A MOUNTAIN with Vern & Ray, Jimmy Martin & Osborne Bros, etc
- KING-0543 RAYMOND FAIRCHILD “At Home In Maggie Valley”
- KING-5111 CARL STORY “Somebody Touched Me”
- KING-5144 RALPH STANLEY “Live At The Smithsonian” with Ricky Lee
- STAR-0123 BUZZ BUSBY
- STAR-0124 HYLO BROWN “Lovesick & Sorrow”
- STAR-0580 CARL STORY “Mighty Close To Heaven”
- STAR-0969 JOSH GRAVES “World Famous Dobro”

THE FOLLOWING SPECIALLY PRICED 2-CD SETS Are \$ 11.00 each:

- GT-0952 THE LEWIS FAMILY “Born Of The Spirit” (2-CD)
- GT-0956 STRINGBEAN (2-CD)
- GT-0957 WADE MAINER (Great collection) (2-CD)

We have selected the above CDs from Gusto’s huge catalog, because all of these are worthy of having. We would point out a few items that are especially interesting: KING-0120, STAR-0123 and STAR-0124 are nicely presented collections of JIM & JESSE, BUZZ BUSBY and HYLO BROWN, respectively. KING-0529 is a quite nice collection of gospel tunes played and sung by Pop Stoneman with autoharp—some of this material was never available before. The LARRY SPARKS “RAMBLIN’ BLUEGRASS” disc was the first record that Sparks made on his own after leaving Ralph Stanley. KING-0542 contains some fine cuts by Vern & Ray and the early King sides by JIMMY MARTIN & THE OSBORNE BROS.—good stuff. Nice to see the Blue Sky Boys records again—we recommend the GT-0965 TREASURY OF RARE SONG GEMS as the better of their two discs. The Carl Story CDs are both good, with his MIGHTY CLOSE TO HEAVEN among his best records after he left Mercury. Don Reno’s guitar album is a fine one, and all three of the 2-CD sets are excellent, especially the WADE MAINER (GT-0957).

ROU-0586 DAN TYMINSKI “Wheels” As a key member of *Alison Krauss’ Union Station*, Dan Tyminski probably gets as much exposure as anyone in Bluegrass music today (except possibly his bandmate Jerry Douglas): that considered, he is seriously underrepresented on record as a soloist. He had a fine record that eventually came out on Rounder in 2001 (*Carry Me Across The Mountain*, ROU-0537, \$ 13.50), and of course got a considerable amount of notoriety for singing

MAN OF CONSTANT SORROW in the “O Brother Where Art Thou” Coen Brothers film. But hearing a full 12-song, beautifully produced and recorded album like this one makes us fully appreciate his talent and exceptional voice. I would buy this record just on the strength of the first 4 cuts—but there’s nothing weak here, just one fine performance after another. The title song gets the record off to a fine start and is followed by Dan’s right-on version of WHOSE SHOULDER WILL YOU CRY ON, and the poignant MAKING HAY. The 4th song, WHO SHOWED WHO (recorded long ago by *Del McCoury*), is a hard-driving, classic performance that epitomizes the best work of an artist who is able to work in a contemporary setting yet call on a background thoroughly rooted in tradition. Yes, it’s the stuff that can make the hair on your neck stand up—a quality that you don’t hear very much reference to anymore these days. Not surprisingly, Tyminski’s voice, arrangements and choice of songs often bring the listener back to his days as a key member of the *Lonesome River Band*. Our advance copy of this CD did not list song writers or sidemen, but no matter: suffice it to say that this is a superb recording in every way, **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED! \$ 13.50**

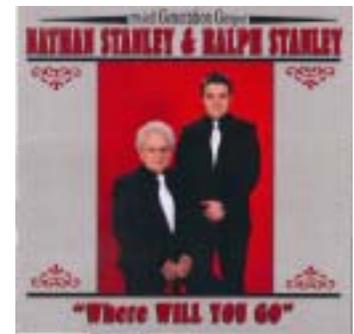


GUSTO-0961 BROWN’S FERRY FOUR “24 Songs”

We don’t know how many times this great old material has been issued, between the original King records and subsequent re-issues on Starday and Gusto, so check your library carefully before ordering this nice compilation. The brief notes are better than the usual Gusto fare, and they point out the fact that the group recorded 45 songs between 1946 and 1952—the group being Alton & Rabon Delmore, Merle Travis and Grandpa Jones. The note writer starts off with this brassy claim: “The *Brown’s Ferry Four* was Country Music’s first great gospel quartet.” What about the *Chuck Wagon Gang*, which had many wonderful gospel classics out as early as 1936 ?? To say nothing of now forgotten but powerful gospel groups of the 1920s like the *McDonald Quartet*. A curiosity here—though not all that surprising from this company—is the fact that the 24 songs are sequenced simply in alphabetical order! That obviously saved someone a few minutes of time and fortunately doesn’t create any real problems, as many of the group’s songs fell into the same keys and tempos. Those little quirks don’t affect the music, which is first rate (those who remember and liked the Hee Haw Quartet will certainly enjoy the many fine songs here), and the CD is a bargain. **\$ 11.00**

TGR-702 NATHAN & RALPH STANLEY

“Where Will You Go” In a short time Nathan Stanley (Ralph’s grandson) has matured into a fine singer and musician, and this new 16 song recording is a really good album that both can be quite proud of. It’s probably instructive to note that of Nathan’s 3 records to date one was instrumental and the other two all gospel. While Ralph is very much present throughout the disc, Nathan is clearly featured and gives strong, soulful renditions of such standards as WHAT WOULD YOU GIVE, LEANING ON JESUS, DRIFTING TOO FAR and HOW GREAT THOU ART among others. He does a great job on the classic BEULAH LAND, and shares in recreating a favorite of his grandfather’s, GLORYLAND. There is fine backing from a great lineup of musicians who played important roles in the Stanley sound over the years: Steve Sparkman, James Alan Shelton, Jack Cooke, Junior Blankenship, Judy & Dan Marshall, Dewey Brown, Ralph Stanley II, and Kristi Stanley. A fine record that any Stanley fan will thoroughly enjoy. **\$ 13.50**



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MMCD-76 CAROLINA CHOCOLATE DROPS

“Dona Got A Ramblin’ Mind” A nicely presented 16 track collection of old-time songs & tunes played by this 3-member band from the Chapel Hill-Durham area of North Carolina. Ms. Rhiannon Giddens sings and plays fiddle and banjo, with Justin Robinson also playing fiddle, and the 3rd member, Don Flemons picks guitar and helps out on banjo, jug and harmonica on occasion. A few tunes are a bit over the band’s head—RICKETT’S HORNPIPE, for example, is just a very rough approximation of this wonderful tune, with most of the notes and nuances left out. But otherwise the numbers are well chosen and it’s a fun recording. **\$ 13.50**

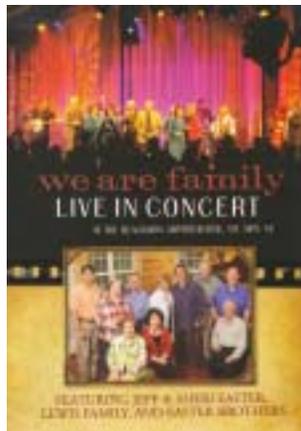
SHED-460 WES MILLER “Hurts More To Stay”

Competent and pleasant straight traditional Bluegrass on 12 well chosen songs & tunes including OLE RUBE, GOLD RUSH, THERE IS A TRAP, BROWN MOUNTAIN LIGHT, BACK TO HANCOCK COUNTY, etc **\$ 13.50**

COOT-2008 NORTH TO ONTARIO-2007 This is the 2nd issue in what is an interesting idea: presenting a sampling of some of the best Bluegrass bands in the province of Ontario. There are 18 tracks here, all by different groups, and all of them except one feature their own original song or tune. There's quite a bit of nice music here, though the overall quality is not as good as last year's anthology. Unfortunately, the record starts with the weakest cut of the collection; after that the music gets better with good performances by *Level Crossing*, *The Backwoodsmen*, *John Showman & Chris Coole* and a fine *Emory Lester* instrumental **FLINT HILL**. Overall it's a nice project that gives Bluegrass fans everywhere a sampling of what's going on in one part of the world. **LONE PINE STANDING, OLD KITCHEN FLOOR, GUIDE ME BACK HOME, YOU & I, AN ANGEL IS WAITING**, etc. **\$13.50**

DAY-1550 WE ARE FAMILY "Live In Concert" DVD.

Jeff & Sheri Easter do a fine job hosting this concert that was filmed in Mt. Airy, N.C., home of the *Easter Brothers*. It features the various members of the *Lewis Family* and the *Easter Brothers*, both highly regarded groups in the gospel music field, and related through the husband & wife team of *Jeff & Sheri Easter* (Jeff Easter is a son of James Easter and Sheri the daughter of Polly Lewis).



Both families come from very strong Bluegrass backgrounds, and that's what most of the music is here. In addition to "Little" Roy Lewis' jokes, general banter and introductions (boy, these are huge families and just about everyone is musically talented!), there are ten songs played, including the Lewis Family's classics **HALLELUJAH TURNPIKE** and **SLIPPERS WITH WINGS**, and the Easters' **HEART THAT WILL NEVER BREAK AGAIN**, and **THEY'RE HOLDING UP THE LADDER**. A nicely filmed and very enjoyable video. **DVD: \$17.50**

JK-0505 JACKIE KINCAID "Where Did You Go"

Kincaid, the current mandolin player for Larry Sparks' *Lonesome Ramblers*, has a decent voice and is backed by several good musicians on this pleasant new recording. Most of the songs are Kincaid originals—they are nice melodies with mostly ordinary and predictable lyrics for the most part, though the gospel piece **MEET ME THERE** is a strong & effective piece. **I NEVER GO AROUND MIRRORS**—with steel guitar—seems out of place here (there is also steel on **OLD FADED PICTURE**). Some of the musicians helping out here with good instrumental contributions are Andy Leftwich (fiddle), Terry Smith (bass) and Tony Wray (banjo), with Terry Eldredge joining in on vocal harmonies. **YOU'LL FORGET, GOTTA TRAVEL ON, IN THE GARDEN, DON'T LOOK BACK**, etc. **\$13.50**

WFB-002 THE WILSON FAMILY BAND "Mercy Road" This group—another of the many family Bluegrass bands springing up all over the country—is from the state of Georgia. It consists of Robert and Melissa Wilson and their two children, Clint, a teenager who plays banjo and doubles up on bass fiddle, and his younger sister Katie, who plays fiddle and takes the singing lead on 3 of the ten cuts: **RISE & SHINE, WHEN THE WAGON WAS NEW, and WALK ME BACK IN TIME**. The kids show plenty of spirit and promise, but are not quite out of the novelty stage yet. Musically, the strongest work here is done by Robert Wilson, who does an excellent job of singing on two slower songs: **HOUSE OF GOLD** and **PASS ME NOT**—his soulful versions of these two classics will compare favorably with just about any you will hear. **WITH HIS WORD, SWEET BY & BY, JOSHUA**, etc. (just 10 cuts) **\$13.50**

TAD-602 ALLEGHENY DRIFTERS "Can't Wait"

Following up an excellent first record, this Pittsburgh, Pa. area group is back with another fine disc of hard-core straight traditional Bluegrass. This time around the band is augmented by the wonderful fiddling of guest Michael Cleveland who adds to an even sharper, fuller sound than heard on the previous CD. The song selection is super, with a handful of well played standards like **I'M GONNA SETTLE DOWN, MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, ASLEEP IN THE BRINY DEEP** and a rousing version of **LITTLE PINK** that kicks off the album.



As good or even better are two superb a cappella songs, wonderfully done: **HEAVEN WAS THERE** and the unusual **BABYLON IS FALLEN**. Bob and Karen Artis are key members of this band, with Bernie Cunningham (guitar) and Keith Beaver (banjo) also sharing vocal duties. **RECOMMENDED. \$13.50**

SFW-40169 TONY TRISCHKA "Territory"

Trischka, coming off a very successful Rounder album that had him paired with numerous top banjo pickers, follows up with this well done and interesting 21-tune collection that shows up, surprisingly, on the Smithsonian Folkways label. Tunes range from an old gourd banjo solo to full Bluegrass treatment of **MOLLY & TENBROOKS**—(well played apart from a flaky vocal by Michael Daves). Most of the tunes simply feature Trischka's banjo, unaccompanied, on tunes like **ZOE, JOHN COHEN'S BLUES, SEAN, LAKE FLORA** and a couple of nice medleys. There are significant other artists on some tunes, and these include Pete Seeger, Mike Seeger, (a nice **NOAH CAME TO EDEN**), Bruce Molsky, Brittany Haas, Bill Evans, and even Bill Keith, among others. Creative, interesting work by a veteran artist who is at his peak. **\$15.00**

ML-10608 MOUNTAIN LAUREL MEMORIES

Back in the days of vinyl (LPs), the Mountain Laurel label of eastern Pennsylvania issued a few Bluegrass albums, most notable of which were discs by *Bob Paisley & The Southern Grass* and the late *Chief Powhatan & His Bluegrass Braves*. This 25 track CD presents these records again in compact disc form. The 6 cuts here by the Chief (a full blooded Indian known otherwise as Floyd Atkins) are solid and nice enough straight Bluegrass, although not as strong as his fine earlier LP on the Homestead label., and there are also a few average cuts by the Spirits of Bluegrass and East Side Dave. The selling point of the record though is the fine work of Bob Paisley's band—they do 14 numbers of excellent traditional Bluegrass, such as LET US TRAVEL ON, DROWNING SAILOR, 40 YEARS OF TROUBLE, HONEY IN THE ROCK, MEMORY OF YOU, etc.

\$ 13.50

GT-0636 MOORE & NAPIER “Bluegrass Gospel & Sacred Songs”

In their career with King Records *Charlie Moore and Bill Napier* were probably best known for their truck driving songs, but it was always my feeling that their best recorded work was their gospel material—with their “GRAND OLE OPRY HYMNAL” LP my favorite of their 9 LPs. We were not aware that there were enough other gospel songs to fill up another album, but this CD is exactly that, with no duplications. Moore is a wonderful lead singer, and Bill Napier an excellent instrumentalist who is often overlooked because this duo recorded at a time when Bluegrass music was at a low point in its history



(Moore went on to be an important & popular artist when Bluegrass festivals came along, and recorded many good records for the Old Homestead label—both these artists have since passed away). This welcome 12-song disc includes nice versions of DON'T WAIT TOO LONG, THAT BEAUTIFUL HOME, I BELIEVE IN THE OLD TIME WAY, WAYFARING PILGRIM, etc. Nice record. **\$ 11.00**

SMR-101 SAWMILL ROAD “One” Pleasant, contemporary Bluegrass by this Southwestern band led by Steve Spurgin, who has had previous discs of his own and has worked with others in his area. The band is a standard 5 piece outfit with Dick Brown on banjo, Mark Miracle on mandolin and Bruce Johnson on fiddle. Songs includes pieces by Ian Tyson, Gordon Lightfoot, Phil Everly and Dan Crary among others. **\$ 13.50**

PRC-6511 JASON DAVIS “Steppin’ Out” Davis is one of an ever growing group of superb young musicians to appear on the Bluegrass scene these days. Having started out in the bands of *Michelle Nixon* and then *Kenny & Amanda Smith*, Davis now is featured banjo picker in the impressive *Grasstowne* group. His playing here is straight & solid, and great auxiliary playing & singing by some top-notch artists make this more than just another decent sideman album. The backing band essentially consists of Tim Stafford (guitar) Ronnie Stewart (fiddle), and Alan Bibey (mandolin), with Phil Leadbetter adding dobro on a couple of tracks. The strong instrumentals are nicely interspersed with excellent vocals by Russell Moore (2), Steve Gulley (2) and Junior Sisk (1)—three of today's best singers of traditional Bluegrass. Tunes and songs include BILLY IN THE LOW GROUND, PIKE COUNTY BREAKDOWN, LET'S PART THE BEST OF FRIENDS, OPEN ROAD, HEEL COUNTRY, ROOM AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS, etc. A very strong & enjoyable record. **\$ 13.50**

CHR-2008 COUNTRY HAM “Playing On” The notes to this new release say that this is the 7th CD by this band—some may now be out of print, as this is just the 4th that we have in stock. The group—led by Carl & Judie Pagter—has its own distinctive sound, combining elements of old-time, Bluegrass, and 1940s style country music. Judie Pagter plays autoharp and does much of the lead singing, Carl plays clawhammer banjo and sings, and Dick Smith is one of four other accompanists who all contribute to a nice full sound. The 17 songs and tunes include good versions of LET THE LIGHT SHINE DOWN, WHAT BECAME OF THAT BEAUTIFUL PICTURE, CABIN ON A MOUNTAIN, WILLIE ROY and BEAUTIFUL BOUQUET, and several tunes (like STATEN ISLAND HORNSPIPE, which features the autoharp. **\$ 13.50**

RHY-325 THE MASHVILLE BRIGADE “Bluegrass Smash Hits—Volume 1. From the name of the group and the packaging, we were somewhat leery that this might be another “Groovegrass” fiasco, but we're happy to say that it's an album of no-nonsense, hard driving straight Bluegrass, played by a group of good young players, specifically Darrell Webb (Guitar & vocals), Jim Van Cleve (Fiddle), Aaron McDearis (banjo), Ashby Frank (mandolin) and Randy Barnes (bass). The 16 songs & tunes are all basically long time Bluegrass favorites and in the public domain, songs like LITTLE MAGGIE, LONESOME ROAD BLUES, ROVING GAMBLER, WHITE HOUSE BLUES, JOHN HENRY, BURY ME BENEATH THE WILLOW, TWO DOLLAR BILL and SALT CREEK. They are all well played and sung, with loads of energy. **\$ 10.00**

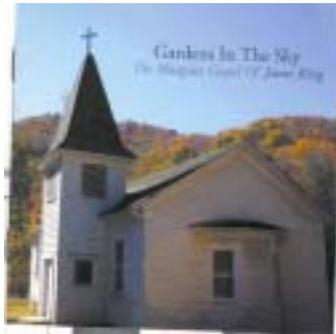
MAC-113 MAC WISEMAN “Old Likker In A New Jar” In these recent recordings Wiseman has put together a nice batch of 15 old “heart” songs—he sings these with the simple accompaniment of his own guitar and the mandolin of Jesse McReynolds. It appears that most of the songs have never been recorded before by Wiseman. They include ROVING GAMBLER, GOLDEN RIVER, WHEN THE WORK'S ALL DONE, etc. **\$ 13.50**

MAC-114 MAC WISEMAN “Waiting For The Boys To Come Home” Here’s another volume of 14 recent recordings from Wiseman, again featuring just Wiseman’s vocals backed up by his guitar and the mandolin of Jesse McReynolds. On this CD the theme is patriotic & war time numbers like RAINBOW AT MIDNIGHT, MARY DEAR, SOLDIER’S LAST LETTER, SILVER DEW ON THE BLUEGRASS TONIGHT, EACH NIGHT AT NINE, THANK GOD FOR THE USA, THERE’S A STAR SPANGLED BANNER WAVING SOMEWHERE, etc. **\$ 13.50**

ROU-0595 JAMES KING “Gardens In The Sky”

What we thought at first was an all new gospel album by King—with 18 songs, no less—turns out to be mostly a re-issue of songs that appeared on his earlier Rounder albums. It is still a very nice and impressive package,

with a lot of great songs that King sings with down-home emotion, backed by sympathetic accompaniment from his various bands over the years. Reading the fine print, we see that there are just 4 new recordings here, including WILL



YOU FEEL AT HOME and THE PRETTIEST FLOWERS WILL BE BLOOMING. One track (STEAL AWAY & PRAY) is lifted from a Paul Williams disc, two from an old Doobie Shea CD, and 3 of the best tracks come from Rounder’s *Longview* albums. The Doobie Shea cuts include Dan Tyminski, Aubrey Haynie, James Alan Shelton, Don Rigsby and Barry Bales, and of course the Longview numbers have Don Rigsby, Dudley Connell, Glen Duncan and Joe Mullins, so it’s not hard to see why these are the tightest & most effective tracks on a strong album. **\$ 13.50**

ROOTSTONE-001 NEW ROANOKE JUG BAND

“When My Time On Earth is Done” This young Roanoke Virginia old time band has attempted an interesting but tough project here, in trying to create their own versions of some of the greatest gospel songs from the “golden age” of rural recordings (1920s & 30s), and yet retain the power and excitement of those pieces (most of which are drawn from black tradition). We’d have to say that *nobody but nobody* today is going to match or top the scintillating emotional power of the original versions of I’LL BE RESTED and WOKE UP THIS MORNING—two amazing gems cut in the 30s by Blind Roosevelt Graves and his brother. We give this group an “A” for trying—they have picked a great list of songs—18 of them, no less, and the packaging is attractive. Some of the interesting songs include AIN’T GONNA LAY MY ARMOR DOWN, IN THAT MORNING, HEAVEN BOUND, MAN OF CONSTANT SORROW, BURNIN’ HELL, etc. **\$ 13.50**

BCR-012 TOM T. HALL “Sings Miss Dixie and Tom T.” Tom T. Hall and his wife Dixie have written an amazing number of really good songs in the past few years, most of them adaptable to—and aimed at—the Bluegrass genre. Most of the dozen songs on this CD have already been recorded by other artists, such as the wonderful, poignant version of PRETTY GREEN HILLS, cut by Dave Evans on his Rebel album of the same name. Tom T. is



backed on this album by a host of stellar Bluegrass musicians, including Glen Duncan, Don Rigsby, Robert Bowlin, Wayne and Kristen Benson, Mike Bub and Becky and Sonya Isaacs. There’s not a weak track here, but some of the highlights are ONE MORE LAST CHANCE, LEAVING BAKER COUNTY, ONE OF THOSE DAYS (I MISS LESTER FLATT) and A HERO IN HARLAN. **\$ 13.50**

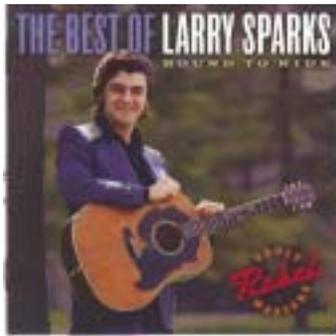
YODEL-071 CHRISTIAN WIG with Whitt Mead “Chadwell’s Station”

From the notes to this nicely packaged album we see that Wig and Mead’s purpose here was to find & preserve a representative group of fiddle tunes that went back to the country’s frontier days (the late 1700s). They avoid getting too scholarly while yet providing a lot of good information on these tunes, many of which come from the *Hamblen Collection* of tunes played by David R. Hamblen, a fiddler who was born in Cumberland Gap in 1809. Source fiddlers referred to in this collection (in addition to Hamblen and his son) include Hiram Stamper and Marcus Martin, and tunings for both fiddle and banjo are included for each of the 22 tunes. Wig and Mead include some common tunes like COTTON EYED JOE, POLLY PUT THE KETTLE ON and COUSIN SALLY BROWN, but for the most part have concentrated on the more obscure pieces—they do a commendable job on SPECKLED APRON, WHITE COCKADE, YOUNG EDWARD, POMPEY RAN AWAY, BIG TENNESSEE etc. in this nicely done, informative and very listenable collection. **\$ 13.50**

HWR-1004 CROSS TIES “Home” We’ve had several other nice discs in the past by this husband & wife team who have moved from their native Texas to Branson, Missouri, and this is another very pleasant 10-track collection once you get past a choppy and very ordinary first cut. The singing is shared by Jim and Karina Glaspy, both of whom have gentle, good down-home voices. There’s little in the way of credits, but it appears from the photo on the back that this is a family effort, with two daughters and a son making up the rest of the band. Jim Glaspy does some nice lead guitar and banjo work here, and the group provides very nice versions of CAROLINA IN THE PINES, SWEET MOUNTAIN GIRL, 700 MILES and BEULAH LAND, **\$ 13.50**

BM-4192 CORY & JARROD WALKER “New Branches” 16 and 14 years of age respectively, these young boys can really pick, and they have surrounded themselves with about 16 other first class pickers in what is essentially an instrumental album (there are only a couple of vocals). Tunes include some standards like OOK PIK WALTZ, COLD FROSTY MORN and CLINCH MOUNTAIN BACKSTEP, a couple of originals and Tom T. Hall’s ANOTHER TOWN (Vocal by Robert Hale). Here are just a few of the artists who help out here: Ricky Skaggs, Andy Leftwich, Clay Hess, Scott Vestal, Cody Kilby, Jim Hurst, Cia Cherryholmes and Mark Fain. **\$13.50**

REBEL-7522 LARRY SPARKS “Bound To Ride” This new addition to Rebel’s “Vault Master” series is more than just a budget line re-issue: it is really a true “Best Of” collection, with 14 of Larry’s most memorable songs of his 40 plus year career in Bluegrass. Just check out some of the titles: JOHN DEERE TRACTOR, TENNESSEE 1949, DON’T NEGLECT THE ROSE, SMOKEY MOUNTAIN MEMORIES, YOU AIN’T LIVED, BLUE VIRGINIA BLUES, A FACE IN THE CROWD and YOU COULD HAVE CALLED. Featuring the vocals of one of the music’s finest singers, plus his distinctive, bluesy guitar picking, this is some of the greatest Bluegrass of the past 35 years. **\$10.00**



HRC-141 JERRY CORRELL & FRIENDS “Headin’ Up Elk Creek” It appears that Mr. Correll—an old-time fiddler from Elk Creek in southwestern Virginia—is joined by around 20 different pickers in this nicely done collection of 19 well played tunes. There are lots of good names here, many of whom we recognize from previous recordings, some as far back as 20 years ago. Some of those include Tom Mylet (banjo, mandolin & guitar), Ron Mullenex (banjo), Ken Landreth (guitar), Dale Morris and Steve Kilby. It’s an impressive list of tunes as well, including MORGAN ON THE RAILROAD, WALK ALONG JOHN TO KANSAS, WHITE RIVER, RYE STRAW, BUSH IN THE SHUCKS, JEFF CITY, FLANNERY’S DREAM and FRISKY JIM. **\$13.50**

SMM-2004 LAURIE LEWIS & THE RIGHT HANDS “Live” Ms Lewis, a fixture on the Bluegrass scene in California for many years has this nicely recorded and packaged album of 19 songs recorded at three different locations in the Northwest in 2007. It includes a good sampling of songs new to her recorded work, plus a few numbers that she is known for: LOVE CHOOSES YOU, THE WOOD THRUSH’S SONG, a fine version of GOING TO THE WEST and her classic WHO WILL WATCH THE HOMEPLACE. Members of her band here include Todd Phillips on bass, Tom Rozum on mandolin and Craig Smith on banjo. **\$13.50**

RC-2008 SPRING CREEK “Lonesome Way To Go” Here are some fresh new sounds from a young 4-member Bluegrass band from the state of Colorado.

The group plays in a pretty traditional style, incorporating mostly new material in well worked out arrangements that show the members to be very solid instrumentally. When it comes to singing,



all 4 musicians contribute nicely: Taylor Sims (guitar), Chris Elliott (banjo), Alex Johnstone (mandolin) and bass player Jessica Smith. Miss Smith—who handles the biggest part of the singing—has a youthful and distinctive voice that is quite engaging. The group gets a bit of solid help from Gabe Witcher (fiddle on 4 tracks) and Sally Van Meter (who plays dobro on 2 numbers and produced the CD as well). With attractive packaging as well, this is a very nice record from an up and coming band that we will be hearing more from if they stick together. **\$13.50**

DAYWIND-1539 O LORD HOW GREAT THOU ART—Volume 2 The Tennessee based *Daywind* company (strictly a gospel label), has put together this second fine collection of 15 sacred songs from as many different artists, most of whom are stalwarts in the Bluegrass genre. Starting with the best known of the Bluegrass names there are fine cuts by *Rhonda Vincent*, *Ralph Stanley* (TWO COATS), *Doyle Lawson* (WE SHALL INHERIT), *Blue Highway* (7 SUNDAYS IN A ROW), *Alison Krauss & The Cox Family* (JEWELS), *Del McCoury* (I’M BOUND FOR THE LAND OF CANAAN), *Ricky Skaggs* (ARE YOU AFRAID TO DIE), *the Easter Brothers* (PETER WAS A FIREBALL) as well as *Lester Flatt*, *The Lewis Family*, and *Lewis Phillips*. In addition there’s a nice mandolin cut of HOW GREAT THOU ART from an early *Chris Thile* CD (pre Nickel Creek), a nice HOME TO YOU by the *Peasall Sisters*, and the soulful version of FAR SIDE BANKS OF JORDAN by *Johnny Cash & June Carter*—not really Bluegrass, but a moving performance of a great song. I had never heard of the *Chigger Hill Boys & Terri*, but their entry—THE DEVIL’S NO MATCH FOR A FLAME LIKE THAT—is clever and an OK rendition. This is a nicely presented and enjoyable sampling of well chosen gospel songs. **\$13.50**

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