



NEWSLETTER #320

October 2012

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COUNTY SALES
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I.B.M.A. AWARDS

Congratulations to all of the groups and musicians who won awards in the annual *International Bluegrass Music Association* convention held in Nashville on September 24-27. See our page 2 listing of the award winners and their most recent record(s).

If you have missed some of these fine records, here is a chance to get them at a lower price than usual: we are selling all the records listed on page 2 for **just \$12.50 THIS MONTH ONLY**. Take the opportunity to save \$1.00 per disc.

By the way, next year's convention and Fan Fest will be held in Raleigh, N.C.

One of the great female vocalists of Country Music, **KITTY WELLS** passed away on July 16 at the age of 92. Her husband, Johnny Wright had died not too long before her. Traveling with the *Johnny & Jack* show—often as part of a package with Roy Acuff—Kitty was a distinctive stylist who was quietly influential in opening many doors for female singers in country music.

We are also sad to report the death of old-time fiddler **GARRY HARRISON** who was a key member of the *Indian Creek Delta Boys* among other groups. He died Sept. 4.

A NEW SURPLUS CD SALE

Those who would like to see our new listing of surplus CDs can check that feature on our web site or request a printed list if you don't have access to a computer. Not only will you see another big batch of CDs at a special sale price of just **\$5.00**, but you'll have a choice of several rare special items free if you purchase 6 or more CDs from this sale. There is a lot of really good and interesting music here too!

SPECIAL MERCHANDISE PRIZES

Everyone who orders anything at all from this Newsletter will be eligible to win one of our merchandise prizes: **\$100.00, \$50.00 and \$25.00**. Orders must be received by **NOVEMBER 15, 2012**. Winners to be announced in a future Newsletter.

Purchase Amount	\$4.00-29.99	\$30.00-59.99	\$60.00-139.99	\$140.00-199.99	Over \$200.00
U. S. Media Mail	3.50	5.00	7.00	8.00	9.50
U. S. Priority Mail	5.00	7.50	9.75	12.50	15.00
International/Canadian orders will be charged exact shipping costs based on weight of the order					
ALL CUSTOMERS ARE CHARGED A \$1.50 HANDLING FEE * ALL VIRGINIA CUSTOMERS MUST ADD 5% SALES TAX.					
For UPS/COD shipments, please add \$11.00 in addition to regular shipping charges.					
For US Mail/COD shipments, please add \$7.30 in addition to regular shipping charges.					
For special expedited rates (FED EX, UPS, NEXT DAY, etc) please call or fax us for cost & authorization.					



SEND ALL ORDERS TO:
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540-745-2001 * Minimum credit card order is \$25.00 * (Fax) 540-745-2008

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE I.B.M.A. AWARD WINNERS for 2012!

We have in stock the most recent record releases of the following artists. **NOTE:**
All the following records are **\$ 12.50 THIS MONTH ONLY** (unless otherwise noted)

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR: THE GIBSON BROTHERS

COMP-4549
COMP-4506

"Help My Brother" (gospel recording event of the year)
"Ring The Bell"

INSTRUMENTAL GROUP MH-1398

THE BOXCARS
"All In"

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR: BLUE HIGHWAY

ROU-9107

"Sounds Of Home"

ALBUM OF THE YEAR:

REB-1845
REB-1837

JUNIOR SISK & RAMBLERS CHOICE

"Heart of a Song"
"Heartaches & Dreams"

MALE VOCALIST:

RUR-1085

RUSSELL MOORE

"Prime Tyme"

FEMALE VOCALIST:

COMP-4564
COMP-4511

DALE ANN BRADLEY

"Somewhere South Of Crazy"
"Don't Turn Your Back"

RECORDED EVENT OF THE YEAR:

RUR-1094

"LIFE GOES ON"

Carl Jackson, Ronnie Bowman, Larry Cordle, Jerry Salley,
Rickey Wasson, Randy Kohrs, D.A. Adkins, Garnet Bowman,
Lynn Butler, Ashley Kohrs, Gary Payne, Dale Pyatt, Clay Hess,
Alan Bibey, Jay Weaver, Ron Stewart & Jim VanCleve

SONG OF THE YEAR:

REB-1845

"A Far Cry From Lester & Earl"

Junior Sisk & Ramblers Choice
Song from REBEL "Heart Of A Song"

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE:

MH 1393

DOYLE LAWSON

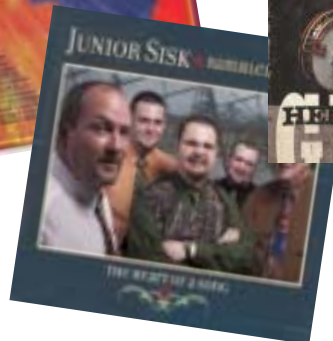
"Sing Me A Song About Jesus"

EMERGING ARTIST OF THE YEAR

REB-1839
REB-1833

JOE MULLINS & THE RADIO RAMBLERS

"Hymns From The Hills"
"Rambler's Call"



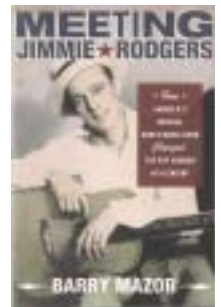
SFR-1004 TENNESSEE MAFIA JUG BAND “Screams From The Holler” 14 country and Old Time songs and tunes from this Nashville based group that is heavily influenced by the music of Uncle Dave Macon and Roy Acuff. Much of the singing is handled by Leroy Troy, who also plays banjo, washboard, and “jaw bow”. Mike Armistead plays guitar and sings, with Mike Webb on banjo and dobro, Ernie Sykes on string bass and Dan Kelly on fiddle and mandolin. Highlights are Kelly’s fine fiddling on HELL AMONGST THE YEARLINGS and MISSISSIPPI SAWYER. Songs include BED OF ROSES, MY GAL IS A Highborn Lady, Sunshine Special, Lulu Wall, Down in Union County and Frankie & Johnnie. **\$ 13.50**

BOOK: BLUEGRASS BLUESMAN “Josh Graves—A Memoir” by Fred Bartenstein, (Univ. of Illinois Press), 142 pp, softbound). Editor Fred Bartenstein has done a beautiful job in covering the career of one of the great figures in Bluegrass, Buck Graves (or Uncle Josh as he was known to many). Josh did as much as anyone for the Dobro, and the greats of that instrument like Mike Auldridge and Jerry Douglas will be the first to point that out. Graves was known for his work with Flatt & Scruggs, with whom he played for over a decade, but he also picked for Wilma Lee & Stoney Cooper, Mac Wiseman, Esco Hankins, and Charlie Bailey, among others, and spent several years late in his career in partnership with the great fiddler Kenny Baker. Bartenstein worked from earlier interviews of Josh, and the book reads more like an auto-biography than a biography. Graves talks freely about his life on the road and provides many recollections of the various artists that he worked with over the years. An especially nice feature is a chapter of more than 20 pages of tributes to Josh by various folks in the music business, including most of the dobro players who were influenced by him or inspired to take up the dobro after seeing Uncle Josh in action. These include Earl Scruggs, Mac Wiseman, Tut Taylor, Leroy Mack, Russ Hooper, Sally Van Meter, Rob Ickes, Fred Travers, Marty Stuart, and of course Mike Auldridge and Jerry Douglas. There is also a nice photo section in the book. This is a fine book, especially if you are a dobro player or a fan of Graves, Flatt & Scruggs and the early days of Bluegrass—an excellent work that flows smoothly, and a hard book to put down. **\$ 20.00**



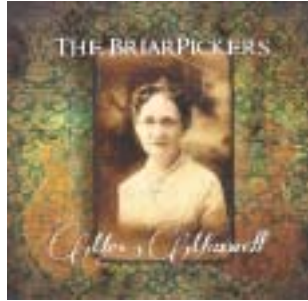
RMO-92611 WAYNE TAYLOR & APPALOOSA “It’s Gonna Be A Beautiful Day” Yes, there are two Wayne Taylors in Bluegrass: this is the Taylor who used to be a member of the U.S. Navy’s Country Current band with Bill Emerson—the other Taylor is the fine singer with Blue Highway. And they both have new albums out about the same time! This is a good straight Bluegrass album where Wayne gets help from Emory Lester (fiddle, mandolin) and Mark Delaney (banjo). The 14 songs are all Taylor originals and reflect the cheerful, positive attitude that is always present in his music. **\$ 13.50**

BOOK: MEETING JIMMIE RODGERS by Barry Mazor, (Oxford Univ. Press), 376 pp, softbound. Here’s a great book that we somehow missed when it originally came out in hard cover in 2009. It’s rather distressing that a book of this quality did not come to our attention earlier, and that tells us it’s likely that a lot of others with an interest in early country music and/or this great artist may have missed this as well. Make no mistake, though we may take him for granted now, Rodgers was a giant in American music—pop as well as country (the book has a long but accurate sub-title: “How America’s original roots music hero changed the pop sounds of a century”). Nolan Porterfield years ago wrote what has been the best biography to date on Rodgers, but Barry Mazor has added much detail to the life, musical career and influence of “the Singing Brakeman” or “America’s Blue Yodeler” (take your choice). This book is loaded with all sorts of interesting facts and knowledgeable commentary, with the 15



chapters giving extensive coverage of Rodgers’ huge influence as well as his early years and things that influenced *him*. Mazor discusses Rodgers’ contemporaries like the Carter Family, Gene Autry and Jimmie Davis, then country stars of the 1940s and 50s like Hank Snow, Ernest Tubb, Lefty Frizzell and Merle Haggard. He shows the effect that Rodgers had on Woody Guthrie and Bob Dylan among many others, and even comments on the Blue Yodeler’s unlikely influence on woman singers (Rose Maddox, Dolly Parton and then Rhonda Vincent all tackled “MULESKINNER BLUES!”). A couple of the many interesting highlights are references to Jimmie’s popularity in foreign countries (his 78s came out extensively in Australia and Great Britain, and even in Japan, India and Africa), and the interesting account of how a devoted early Rodgers collector (Jim Evans) started a fan club which led eventually to Rodgers’ songs being re-released starting in the 1950s, after a dry spell of some 20 years of unavailability. At the end of each chapter there are listings of pertinent books and music to check out. This is a superb study of a great artist, packed with all sorts of detail—HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!. **\$ 18.00**

BRIAR-1802 THE BRIARPICKERS “Mrs. Maxwell” This is the first CD we recall that features just the mandolin and fiddle. Brian Ray (mandolin) and Pail Kienitz (fiddle) do an admirable job in creating some very pleasant listening for old time fans. The recording never feels like there’s any need for a bass, a guitar, or any other instruments. The 13 tunes are well chosen and nicely paced, with some good numbers that we haven’t heard before (SNAKE RIVER REEL, BRIAR PICKER BROWN, BEECH BOTTOM and WES MUIR’S TUNE), plus tunes learned from Chirps Smith (MISSISSIPPI PALISADES), Bill Monroe (FROG ON A LILY PAD) and Rayna Gellert (SWANNANOVA WALTZ). Our only complaint is that there isn’t any information on the players or the tunes, thanks to the darn “thin Line” compact disc format that seems to be used more and more often these days, presumably to save a few dollars. An enjoyable and recommended album. **\$ 13.50**



MC-1211 MONROE CROSSING “Joy, Joy, Joy” Solid and enjoyable Bluegrass gospel music from this Minnesota band. The lead singing is nicely handled by Lisa Fuglie on this 14-track recording that features good versions of mostly standard songs like DOWN TO THE RIVER TO PRAY, KEEP ON THE SUNNYSIDE, I SAW THE LIGHT, WHEN THE ANGELS CARRY ME HOME, I’LL FLY AWAY, WHISPERING HOPE, SOFTLY AND TENDERLY, and RANK STRANGER. **\$ 13.50**

RUR-1090 VARIOUS ARTISTS “Bill Monroe—The 100th year celebration—Live at Bean Blossom” Recorded this past year, this is a 12 track collection of Monroe’s songs and tunes—each played by a different Rural Rhythm artist. Apart from Lonesome River Band, Lou Reid and IIIrd Tyme Out, the lineup of artists is solid but not outstanding. The same can be said of the vocals: they are solid but there are few inspired moments. Among all the Monroe tribute records that came out in the last year, this one would be down the list as far as overall quality and desirability go. UNCLE PEN, SOUTHERN FLAVOR, MOLLY & TENBROOKS, BLUEGRASS BREAKDOWN, BODY & SOUL WERE YOU THERE, BODY & SOUL, BIG MON, etc. **\$ 13.50**

HCR-002 WHITETOP MOUNTAIN BAND “Island In The Sky” Average Old Time string band music from Southwestern Va. There are 16 tracks here, with the better cuts being the full string band renditions of old tunes like SOURWOOD MOUNTAIN, BILL CHEATHAM, MISSISSIPPI SAWYER, etc. The singing here is not a strong point. **\$ 13.50**

BGA-1201 DETOUR “A Better Place” This is a very nice record by a 6-member group that appears to be from Michigan. The music is contemporary Bluegrass, with good arrangements and featuring the excellent singing of Missy Armstrong. Eight of the 14 songs & tunes are composed by Jeff Rose, who plays mandolin—the leadoff song (QUARTERLINE ROAD) is especially nicely sung by Ms. Armstrong, and should get a lot of play in Bluegrass radio. The group includes several better known pieces like EVERYBODY WANTS TO GO TO HEAVEN. I’LL GO STEPPING TOO and I’VE JUST SEEN THE ROCK OF AGES, all well played. A very pleasing album **\$ 13.50**

DTM-023 BEST OF THE KRUGER BROTHERS This musical trio has made a lot of friends in the USA since moving to North Carolina from their native Switzerland. They are excellent acoustic musicians who have developed their own style—at times almost favoring classical music, and other times touching on a “New Age” approach (though we don’t mean that in a negative way). It’s a gentle sound for the most part, and on this retrospective the brothers’ choice of material includes well played versions of BLACK MOUNTAIN RAG, HONEY BABE BLUES and LONG BLACK VEIL, in addition to many of their own songs and tunes. There are 16 tracks here chosen from their extensive crop of previous albums (would you believe they have issued 18 records to date?), all nicely arranged and played. A couple of especially nice cuts are FOREVER & A DAY, and a previously unissued PEOPLE GET READY—a Curtis Mayfield song that surprisingly works very nicely for the Krugers. Like their other work, this is a very nice collection of gentle, sensitive pieces. **\$ 13.50**



AMP-60031 THE YANKEE REBELS “Flight Of The Phoenix” A solid and enjoyable album of traditional Bluegrass by this band from New York City (the credits say the group has been playing there for more than 3 decades). Well selected songs include a few originals plus some good old timers like WHO DONE IT, BEHIND THESE PRISON WALLS OF LOVE, SHACKLES AND CHAINS, YOU CAN HAVE HER, DEEP RIVER, etc. **\$ 13.50**

MHR-3150 THE PRIMITIVE QUARTET “He Included Me” Another good gospel album in a long running series by this long established group from Candler, North Carolina. Led by Reagan Riddle, the group uses Bluegrass instrumentation on the 10 songs here. Jeff Tolbert and David Johnson help out with the instrumental accompaniment. **\$ 13.50**

CF-5032 THE COCKMAN FAMILY “Dedicated” Well played and nicely arranged gospel Bluegrass by this North Carolina family band that has had several good previous records. Four different family members take turns with the lead vocals, but most are handled nicely by Carolina Cockman Fisher. BORN TO SHINE, SUPPERTIME, ACRES OF DIAMONDS, (13 songs). **\$ 13.50**

NYF-2012 THE NEW YOUNG FOGIES—Vol-

ume 1 As the notes to this record state, “a new generation has taken up Appalachian old-time music, playing it with a passion”. That is surely a fact, and a lot of the credit goes to people like the late Ray Alden, who we believe coined the phrase “The Young Fogies”. Apart from the better known old-time practitioners like Bruce Molsky, Brad Leftwich, Dirk Powell, John Hermann, Rayna Gellert, Riley Baugus and Kirk Sutphin, it is clear that there is a significant number of musicians scattered around the country whose names we don’t yet recognize, but who are competent, enthusiastic lovers and players of the music. Most of the pickers & singers on this excellent album are living in the Southeast or have roots there—Kentucky, North Carolina, West Virginia and Southwest Virginia in particular. There are 25 songs and tunes here, and apart from a few weak vocals, the music is all quite good. Especially nice are the renditions of ARKANSAS TRAVELER, FLATWOODS (solo fiddling with “feet”), HOOK & LINE, DOUBLE FILE, SUSANNA GAL and ASK THAT PRETTY GIRL TO BE MY WIFE. There are almost as many musicians as there are tunes, and the 24-page booklet spends most of its words telling about the pickers’ backgrounds and occupations, rather than discussing the tunes (most of which are standard fare). Many of today’s old time musicians come from the Pacific Northwest and the Asheville, N.C. area: this fine album shows that there is a substantial similar movement in Kentucky as well. Some of the artists here are Emily Schaad & Mark Freed, Sarah Wood, Brett Ratliff, Nikos Pappas, Rosie Newton, and Nick McMillian. **\$ 13.50**



SMM-2006 LAURIE LEWIS “Skippin’ and Flyin’” Ms. Lewis has a very nice album here, with a good selection of songs and tasteful backing by her band that includes Tom Rozum on mandolin and either Patrick Sauber or Craig Smith on 5-string banjo. In her notes Ms. Lewis her introduction to—and her debt to—the music of Bill Monroe. There are three Monroe songs here: A LONESOME ROAD, BLUE MOON OF KENTUCKY, and MOLLY AND TENBROOKS; but Laurie also pays tribute to Flatt & Scruggs (WHAT’S GOOD FOR YOU and I DON’T CARE ANYMORE), Del McCoury (DREAMS), and Wilma Lee Cooper (AIN’T GONNA WORK TOMORROW) and she finds a spot for two of her own compositions. Everything is tastefully done. **\$ 13.50**

REBEL-7530 CLAIRE LYNCH & THE FRONT PORCH STRING BAND “Hills Of Alabam”

Two great early albums (now out of print) have been combined by the Rebel label into this one budget release that includes most of the very best performances by this innovative group. The first of the group’s work appeared on an LP in 1983, and included such songs as HILLS OF ALABAMA, GO MY WAY, THE SINGER, and the group’s memorable version of WABASH CANNONBALL—all of these songs are here in their original versions, combined with some wonderful cuts from the later record Lines & Traces: HARD TIMES, NATCHEZ TRACE, I FOUND YOU and SOME MORNING SOON. A great and important collection. **\$ 10.00**

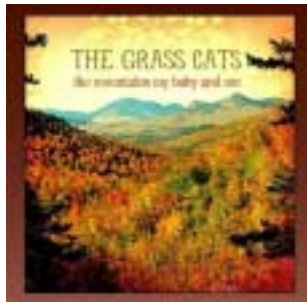


BACM-387 FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JIMMIE RODGERS Some typical, pleasant enough songs & yodels by several 1950s country artists who were obviously very much influenced by the “Singing Brakeman”/“Blue Yodeler”. The bulk of the 24 tracks are by three artists: Riley Crabtree, Al Runyon, and Alan Moore (billed as “America’s New Blue Yodeler”). Runyon made a series of at least 11 Rodgers songs for the Kentucky label, and Crabtree (who later recorded for Columbia) is heard on 5 tracks from the scarce Talent label. Moore’s 4 songs are taken from the Crystal label. The repertoire here includes 7 of Jimmie’s Blue Yodels, plus other favorites like WAITING FOR A TRAIN, T.B. BLUES, DADDY & HOME, IN THE JAILHOUSE NOW, HOBO BILL and TRAVELING BLUES. These renditions won’t exactly replace Rodgers’ originals, but they do remind us of the powerful influence that Jimmie’s music had on rural musicians right through the 1930s, 40s, and 50s. **\$ 15.00**

HAR-8 ROGER & J.D. WILLIAMS “Williams Squared” A pleasant instrumental album featuring father and son (Roger plays the dobro and son J.D. picks the mandolin). We have carried previous records by Roger, going back to LP days. Guest Ray Legere helps out here on fiddle. The tunes are all original compositions by either Roger or J.D. **\$ 13.50**

THM-1208 THE LONESOME SISTERS & RILEY BAUGUS “Lonesome Scenes” Nicely augmented by the good old time banjo work of Riley Baugus, the “Sisters” (Debra Clifford and Sarah Hawker), have a nice 12-cut album here. (Previous albums have included Baugus or Rayna Gellert.). One strength of this new release is the excellent choice of material, which includes songs & tunes like HOUSE CARPENTER, SHOUT LULU, TROUBLES, ADIEU FALSE HART, SHADY GROVE, DARK & THORNY IS THE DESERT and LONESOME SCENES OF WINTER. A well done, enjoyable album. **\$ 13.50**

NT-1013 THE GRASS CATS “The Mountains, My Baby, and Me” Top flight traditional Bluegrass by this Raleigh, N.C. group that is one of the best regional bands in the country. They can always be counted on for excellent original material, much of it from the pen of Russell Johnson (who usually has at least one song in the Bluegrass charts). Johnson’s high tenor voice is always instantly recognizable too, and Tim Woodall on banjo and the rest of the band are right on the money. Reno & Smiley’s UNWANTED LOVE and Dylan’s BLOWN IN THE WIND show what the band can do with standards, and the title song will likely be high in the Bluegrass charts for at least a few months. Fine straight Bluegrass here, and **RECOMMENDED. \$ 13.50**

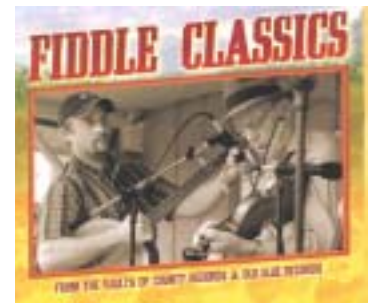


RUR-1106 RAY EDWARDS “Portrait Of A Bluegrass Songwriter” There’s plenty of good solid Bluegrass on this 12-song production, with the one constant being the fact that Edwards has written or co-written all the songs on the record. There’s an interesting and impressive list of talent here, as Edwards’ songs are given good treatment by different bands for each song. These include IIRD TYME OUT, DARRELL WEBB, CAROLINA ROAD, GRASSTOWNE, SPECIAL CONSENSUS, JEANETTE WILLIAMS and MONROEVILLE. A negative aspect that we must point out is the lack of any real information about Edwards (as far as we know he was a North Carolinian who left that state years ago to pursue a successful career as a songwriter in Nashville). The record comes with a 10-panel insert in which song titles, composer credits, and words to the songs all run together, creating a jumble that is very difficult to read—with a better layout there could have been room for a bit of personal detail about Edwards himself. Probably the best known song of his that appears on this record is HARD ROCK MOUNTAIN PRISON, done superbly by RUSSELL MOORE and IIRD TYME OUT. **\$ 13.50**

MM-0071 WALT KOKEN “Sittin’ In The Catbird’s Seat” Best known as fiddler for the influential Highwoods String Band in the 1970s, Koken shows here that he also is a good old time banjo picker. The 17 tunes here—all banjo solos—were gathered and recorded by Koken mostly in the last two years, but there is a fine cut of CHINQUAPIN PIE that was recorded at a concert way back in 1967—Koken’s driving treatment of that piece is in sharp contrast to his recent playing, which is more mellow and easy going—the inclusion of this tune is quite impressive & instructive. Koken also includes a good version of MAPLE LEAF RAG—a piece that requires a considerable amount of skill and knowledge of the banjo. Walt also sings on a few tracks. A well done and enjoyable disc for any who enjoy old time banjo. DOWN SOUTH BLUES, BANJO ON THE HILL, WORRIED BLUES, FRANKIE & ALBERT, etc. **\$ 13.50**

LDR-038 JEFF PARKER “Go Parker” Solid Bluegrass music here by Parker and a bunch of other good musicians. Parker—who plays mandolin and guitar here—has been a strong band member in the groups Lonesome River Band and now Doyle Lawson’s Quick-silver. Those who help him out on this record include Ron Stewart (fiddle, banjo & guitar), Ned Luberecki (banjo) Mike Bub (bass), and Stephen Mougin. There are guest vocalist spots for Cia Cherryholmes (WHEN I LOVED YOU), and Dailey & Vincent, who are heard on PLANT SOME FLOWERS BY MY GRAVESIDE and LET’S BE SWEETHEARTS AGAIN. Unfortunately there is nothing in the way of notes to help document Parker’s career in Bluegrass. **\$ 13.50**

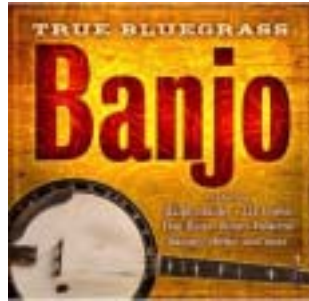
OLD BLUE-709 VARIOUS ARTISTS “Fiddle Classics” Lots of variety (and plenty of good fiddling) on this 28 track collection of Bluegrass, Old-Time, and Texas style fiddling. Many of the pieces are from the Galax, Va. area (Otis Burris, Tommy Jarrell, Esker Hutchins), but there are also neat pieces from Texas (Norman Solomon, Orville Burns), Missouri (Cyril Stinnett) and even New England (The Riendeau Family). Kenny Baker and Joe Greene play a neat twin fiddle version of LEATHER BREECHES. Most of the tunes were recorded by Charlie Faurot for release on the County label starting in the 1960s. Nicely presented with good notes, this is a fine compilation. **\$ 11.00**



YODEL-083 CHICKEN TRAIN This 3-member old-time group consists of John Engle (fiddle), John Hermann (banjo) and Meredith McIntosh (guitar & bass). They feature 20 tunes, almost all of them from the repertoire of the wonderful North Carolina musician, the late Tommy Jarrell. Both fiddle and banjo tunings are given for all of the pieces. Besides being fine music, this CD could serve well as a reference point for all those who love and try to learn the music of Jarrell. The modest but nicely presented disc includes tunes like CIDER, ROUSTABOUT, OLD BUNCH OF KEYS, SAILAWAY LADIES, PINEY WOODS GIRL, POLECAT BLUES, etc. **\$ 13.50**

ATLAS-2012 ATLAS STRING BAND “Strong Shoulder” Here is another good old time group from the Pacific Northwest (Seattle), with a nice batch of 16 songs and tunes. Members of this 5 piece band include Paul Tolo (fiddle), Morgan John (banjo & lead vocals), Tom Collicott (guitar), Carmen Ficarra (bass), and David Parker (mandolin). The group is at its best on the full old-time string band numbers like JENNY ON THE RAILROAD, GREY EAGLE, DUCK RIVER, PRETTY LITTLE PINK, PADDY ON THE HANDCAR and IDA RED. They also try a couple of Bluegrass songs (I’M GOING BACK TO OLD KENTUCKY and LONG JOURNEY HOME), adapting them fairly successfully to the old-time style. **\$ 13.50**

REBEL-8006 TRUE BLUEGRASS BANJO (Various Artists) Those who love the 5-string banjo should thoroughly enjoy this budget compact disc that includes 16 tunes played by many of the finest pickers in the business. The tunes were recorded over a period of more than 50 years by the Rebel label, and include cuts like SWEET DIXIE, CLINCH MOUNTAIN BACKSTEP, BANJO BOY CHIMES, BLACK JACK, HARD TIMES, BEAR TRACKS and THEME TIME, as played by artists like Don Reno, Bill Emerson, Ralph Stanley, Sonny Osborne, and J.D. Crowe as well as newer generation pickers such as Jimmy Arnold, Sammy Shelor, Alan Munde, Terry Baucom and Ned Luberecki. Wonderful music here and a great bargain as well! **\$ 10.00**



RUR-1099 BOBBY OSBORNE “New Bluegrass & Old Heartaches” Solid, pleasant straight Bluegrass as Osborne sings songs by Paul Craft, Phil Rosenthal, Jake Landers and Glen Duncan. MUDDY WATERS, THE LAST BRIDGE YOU’LL BURN, LOW & LONELY, etc. **\$ 13.50**

SKFR-1013 RICKY SKAGGS “Music To My Ears” Skaggs may be the only one in Bluegrass today who can afford to carry a seven piece band. We all know that he would still probably have the best instrumentalists if he trimmed the group to a standard 5 piece outfit. But we can’t argue with his choice of musicians like Andy Leftwich (fiddle), Cody Kilby (guitar), Barry Bales (bass), and Justin Moses (banjo)—and Skaggs himself plays a nifty mandolin on all 11 of the tracks on this album. But some long time Bluegrass lovers may wonder about some of the “extra” touches here, like Whistle, Accordion, piano and “keyboard programmer”. Still, the album is well done and about half of it is the kind of excellent Bluegrass that Ricky has given us over the years. There are fine cuts of BLUE NIGHT, LOVING YOU TOO WELL, Don Stover’s great THINGS IN LIFE (Ricky plays clawhammer banjo on this) and TENNESSEE STUD (Ricky’s tribute to Doc Watson). In addition, the band gets in a real groove on a Skaggs original instrumental, NEW JERUSALEM. These tracks are straight, solid Bluegrass and enough to make this CD a “keeper”. Some may enjoy SOLDIER’S SON, a joint effort of Skaggs and Barry Gibb (of the Bee Gees), and WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR is nicely done, though with piano it’s more of a country performance. **\$ 13.50**

DOG BOY-2012 CHRIS BRASHEAR “Heart Of The Country” With a nice upper range voice and his skill on a number of instruments, Brashear is currently a member of Robin & Linda Williams’ group, playing fiddle and mandolin. Fans will also remember his work as a member of the *Perfect Strangers* (with Bob Black & Jody Stecher), and he also has recently re-released his fine *Wanderlust* recording (DB-2010). A good songwriter, he has penned 9 of the 13 songs on this album, which also contains his interpretations of material by Iris Dement, Dick Staber and the Carter Family (a nice version of SILVERY COLO-



RADO). Dement’s MAMA’S OPRY is a fine song that well suits Brashear’s sensitive and distinctive singing. Helping him with the instrumentation (and harmony vocals) is a cast that includes Tim O’Brien, Pat Enright, Peter McLaughlin, Todd Phillips, Richard Bailey, Jim Watson, and Mike Compton—whose superb mandolin is as tasteful as ever. **\$ 13.50**

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