

The name **Dede Wyland** might only be known to those whose interest in bluegrass music stretches back to the 1970s when, in her mid-20s, she played guitar in a young Milwaukee band Grass, Food & Lodging. In 1980 Wyland moved from her hometown to New York City where she helped to form Tony Trischka and Skyline, one of the better known progressive bluegrass bands of the 1980s. Others may know of her abilities from Sore Fingers classes. Since 1990 she has lived in the Washington DC area and concentrated on being a vocal instructor, a role for which she was in very heavy demand. With *Keep The Light On* (Patuxent Music 189) Wyland steps out into the international spotlight once more. She does that with gusto; her voice immediately striking the right note, literally and metaphorically, and giving expression to some lovely songs, such as David Via's Lord Keep The Light On, Everything That Glitters (Is Not Gold), a No 1 country hit in 1986 for Dan Seals, Felice and Boudleaux Bryant's Devoted To You, Chime Bells, with some stunning yodelling, and Carter Stanley's The Memory Of Your Smile. Another for the nostalgic is a re-recording of John's Waltz To The Miller, originally on Tony Trischka's 1983 album *A Robot Plane Flies Over Arkansas*. Backing her is a core band of Mike Mumford (banjo), Wyatt Rice (guitar), Rickie Simpkins (mandolin) and Ronnie Simpkins (bass), along with Ira Gitlin (bass), Tom McLaughlin (guitar) and Darol Anger (fiddle), each for one song only. Randy Barrett, Dudley Connell, David McLaughlin, Fred Travers and Rickie Simpkins add harmony to various tracks. In the notes to this album Connell describes Wyland as having "a striking and unique human voice". I agree entirely.

**Momma's Groceries** is a high energy