

"Nate Leath is one of the new bright lights illuminating the contemporary fiddle universe." So says David Grisman. He goes on to say, "he's a fiddle player who's got something substantial to say and I for one will be listening". As far as I can tell, *Rockville Pike* (Patuxent Music 177) is Leath's fourth solo recording for his current label. Normally he is part of Old School Freight Train, a band as much influenced by jazz, Latin and Celtic sounds as much as by bluegrass music. On this album Leath, a product of Berklee College of Music and a North Carolina native, performs a selection of standards, many of which are in the public domain, and a few original tunes, two of which, including the title track, were composed by Leath himself, in an old-time fiddle style. He is accompanied by the youthful talents of Tatiana Hargreaves (a 13-year-old singer who plays an impressive second fiddle also) and Sarah Jarosz (17 years old and an old-time banjo player with a charming, folksy voice that is used to good effect on No One Knows My Name, penned by Dave Rawlings and Gillian Welch) and veterans Mark Schatz (bass and old-time banjo), Danny Knicely (guitar) and Tom Mindte (executive producer) alongside a few names that are new to me. Essentially, this is a medium for Leath to display his talents as an old-time fiddler and his renditions of the likes of Ride Old Buck To Water, Richmond, Tennessee Mountain Fox Chase, Rockville Pike and Rosin On The Gourd are alive and energetic. It is good to know that old-time music is in such caring hands.