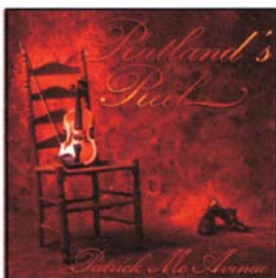


**PATRICK McAVINUE  
RUTLAND'S REEL**

Patuxent Music  
CD-174



If tone, timing, taste, presentation, production, and the quality of the arrangements were the only criteria on which a CD earned a "Highlight" review, you would see a box around this review. The level of musicianship in all those categories is that good.

What keeps this review from "Highlight" recognition is the selection of material. A highlight CD need be predominantly stocked with tunes of unique quality. It's difficult to define what gives it that quality (sometimes it's obscurity or a unique source or an original composition), but you know it when you hear it. Two of the tunes here qualify. "Henry Rutland's Country Classic Waltz" is a gorgeous tune you don't hear often on record. Waltzes have a magic quality, and this one does especially so. Fiddler Patrick McAvinue's opening solo captures that magic by sweeping along with a warm tone. Following a graceful mandolin solo from Jesse Brock, McAvinue returns in a twin fiddle recapitulation with Michael Cleveland that raises interest to the next level. "Charleston #1" is a tune you hear even less often. (The only recording I have is one by Doc Roberts from back in the '20s.) McAvinue teams with Chris Warner for a fiddle and banjo duet and maintains the wild energy of the tune in a wonderful bluegrass/old-time hybrid. It is the highlight of the recording.

The danger with not giving this album a "Highlight" review is that an excellent piece of work might get overlooked amidst the standard reviews. If that's the case, then listeners will be missing fine renditions of "Rutland's Reel," "Body And Soul," "No Longer A Sweetheart," "Lonesome Without You," and absolutely ripping versions of the standards "Down Yonder" and "Old Dangerfield." They'll also be missing the chance to hear one of the finest up-and-coming young fiddlers on the bluegrass scene today.

Joining McAvinue, Cleveland, Warner, and Brock are guitarist/vocalist Audie Blaylock, bassist Barry Reid, banjoist Pete Kelly, and vocalist Bob Goff, Jr. Highlight or not, don't overlook this recording. (Patuxent Music, P.O. Box 572, Rockville, MD 20848, <[www.pxrec.com](http://www.pxrec.com)>.)BW