

Patrick McAvinue, *Rutland's Reel*

[Patuxent Music, POB 572, Rockville, MD 20848; www.pxrec.com]

Patrick McAvinue's second solo album in a relatively short time is a combination of modern bluegrass with a bit of "national" contest style. He has immaculate technique which he blends with driving, rhythmic bowing and an obvious knowledge of the history of bluegrass fiddle. Four of the cuts are vocals from the core of bluegrass repertoire featuring Audie Blaylock and Bobby Goff on leads. (McAvinue currently is a member of Blaylock's band.)

This CD is another reminder of the tremendous leap that the technical aspect of bluegrass fiddling has made in the past decade. The virtuosity of the latest generation is remarkable and bespeaks serious training at a young age without letting any art music background interfere with bluegrass sensibility (although I don't know about McAvinue's music education).

Michael Cleveland does some fine work, mostly on mandolin (and some harmony fiddle) along with Chris Warner on banjo (including a couple of fiddle/banjo pieces).

Cuts include "With Body and Soul," "Soppin' the Gravy," "Irish Spring," and nine others.

— Stacy Phillips