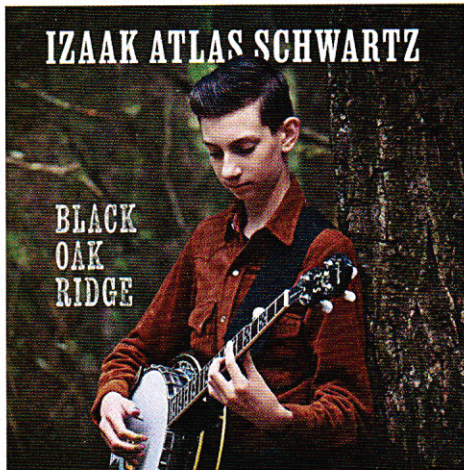


IZAAK ATLAS SCHWARTZ

BLACK
OAK
RIDGE



This young man exemplifies what the new generation of bluegrass artists are bringing to the music. Schwartz was born in 2011 in Portsmouth, Virginia and the family relocated to the Wind Gap area of Pennsylvania in 2017. He had already studied the piano and other instruments,

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BLACK OAK RIDGE | REVIEWED BY BILL FOSTER

but when he first heard the banjo after attending some of the area's festivals, he was hooked. Since then, he has won a number of awards at places like Union Grove, Galax and Deer Creek. This new project showcases not only his banjo skills but also displays his songwriting abilities.

He is joined here by Michael Johnson (bass), Quentin Fisher (mandolin), Samuel Zolla (guitar), Emily Roeder (fiddle). Guest Michael Cleveland (fiddle), and Steve Leonard (banjo), and the vocals are covered by Michael Johnson (lead), Darren Beachley (tenor), Quentin Fisher (baritone), and Tom Mindte (bass).

His original tunes include the title "Black Oak Ridge," "Ol' Blue," "Dingman's Drop," "Icy Holler," and the medley of

"Tailholt Reel/Wind Gap Reel." He covers traditional and public domain tunes to include "South (Foxtrot)," "Come Thou Font of Every Blessing," "Protect The Innocent," and "Waiting For The Robert E. Lee." Then there are covers of "Faded Love" (Bob Wills) with Michael Cleveland (fiddle), "Rockwood Deer Chase" (Don Stover) with Michael Cleveland (fiddle), "Shelton Special" (Allen Shelton) with Steve Leonard (banjo), and "Everyone Has To Answer" (Don Scott & Barbara Scott).

For such a young man, Schwartz shows a great maturity in his banjo playing and writing. One can hear in his style the influences of both traditional bluegrass but also the more modern techniques. Schwartz has a great future ahead with his music.