

Guitar fans in particular should find joy in the work of **JAN KNUTSON**. His first recording, **OUT OF NOWHERE** [Knutson Music km 010] is a solo effort from August 2014 playing 11 [47:12] familiar standards that have a reflective quality I'd expect from someone like Herb Ellis but not a 15 year old lad. There seem to be more and more capable artists their teens.

Knutson is a real player who happened to be 15 when this recording was made circa 2015. This recording, made without edits, is impressive and one can feel the intensity as he navigates the solo and bass lines, at times nearly stumbling over himself. The guitar he plays is a 17" archtop built by his father.

**JAN KNUTSON**'s latest recording, **LOOKING BOTH WAYS** [Patuxent Records cd-284] has 13 tracks [62:66] making up this date [12/15] which is a mixture of 3 originals and 10 standards. It is a pleasure to hear Knutson play solo counterpoint to himself as he negotiates chord changes throwing out one line then playing underneath it. Knutson is nicely supported on some tunes by Steve Abshire [gtr], Tommy Cecil [b] and Danny Knicely [mandolin] and it is a nice break from his solo sides. His phrasing and timing clearly suggest an artist of a maturity past his 17 years for here he shows a relaxed ambience of assured confidence. Cleanly recorded, sit back and enjoy. It will be interesting if he continues in this pursuit...stay tuned.