

RUSS CARSON

Last Chance

Patuxent Music

Russ Carson is a young banjo player who, as far as I know, now has released his first CD. The album consists of 14 tracks, eight of them are instrumental. The vocals are sung by different people. Either the group Gold Heart (who Russ used to play in), the duo Brandon Rickman & Jeff Parker or Marshall Wilborn are the ones that are singing.

The song material here is very mixed. Everything from an own tune and old "public domain"-songs to songs from the vaults of Bill Monroe, Doyle Lawson and Del McCoury.

The first song "I Feel the Blues Movin' In" is a great song, written by Del McCoury. Actually all the vocal tracks are very good, and I also enjoy the instrumental versions of "Goodbye Liza Jane" and Bill Monroe's "Shenandoah Breakdown". Among the vocals the already mentioned "I Feel the Blues...", "Sake of Love" and "One Tear" are my favorites. We must of course not forget to mention that there are many good musicians on this CD, not just Russ on his banjo. And all musicians get to show their musicianship with solos like Dominick Leslie on mandolin and the two fiddlers Michael Cleveland and Patrick McAvinue.

This is hardly the "last chance" to hear something from Russ Carson, I believe this is only the beginning.

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MARCUS THELL