

Tom Mindte and Jeremy Stephens
Radio Favorites and Sacred Songs



Patuxent CD 215

Tom Mindte: mandolin, vocals; Jeremy Stephens: guitar, vocals

Columbus Stockade Blues / It Rained a Mist / On the Jericho Road / I Stood on the Bridge at Midnight / Sparkling Brown Eyes / Tragic Love / You Made the Break / What is Home Without Love / Do You Call that Religion / He's Coming Back to Earth Again / Don't Forget to Pray / There's an Open Door Waiting

Tom and Jeremy are two powerful singers who have combined their talents in this duet album of 12 "radio favorites and sacred songs." Tom Mindte is the owner of Patuxent Records and plays with a DC-based bluegrass group, Patuxent Partners. Jeremy, who tends to have one foot in bluegrass and one in old-time music, is known to many old-time music fans as a member of the New North Carolina Ramblers. Together, with Tom singing lead and Jeremy singing tenor, they have put together a fine album. There are some wonderful songs on here.

Both singers are steeped in old-time bluegrass and duet traditions, and this is evident both instrumentally and vocally. The mandolin treads the margins between Bill Monroe and Bill Bolick with taste and skill, the guitar backup perfectly in sync. Jeremy's tenor gives chill bumps, especially on the classic "Sparkling Brown Eyes" made popular by Webb Pierce and the Wilburn Brothers in the 1950s, "I Stood on the Bridge at Midnight," the beautiful "You Made the Break," the Monroe Brothers' "Do You Call that Religion?" and the last track on the CD, "There's an Open Door Waiting." I have never heard "You Made the Break" before. What a great song! And it's very cool the way Jeremy departs from Webb Pierce and the Wilburns' version, adding an additional yodel in "Sparkling Brown Eyes." I felt as they would have been better served by starting the album with one of those songs rather than the first three,

which felt a little forced and had some minor pitch issues here and there. But all in all, this is a wonderful recording—great material and great music.

I wish there had been information on sources, songs, artists. Although I love the cover design, I also love reading about the songs and learning something about the musicians.

Anyone who loves good singing and harmony, tasteful backup, and great songs will want this CD.

ALICE GERRARD

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