

Recordings

Frank Maloy with Paul Anastasio, Casey Driscoll & Friends, *Stop, Look & Listen* [Patuxent Music; pxrec.com]

Make no mistake, *Stop, Look & Listen* is a lot of album to get your ears around. But what else would you expect from triple fiddles supplied by Frank Maloy, Paul Anastasio, and Casey Driscoll? Add in a stellar set of “friends,” and you have a joy to listen to, and even after 14 tracks, the listener feels it was way too short. There’s a polka, a rag, a waltz, a breakdown, a two-step, a blues song, and lots more. You’re not crazy if you think you detect an influence of Bob Wills. And if you don’t tap your feet through “Coquette,” see a doctor – your reflexes might be slipping.

Several of Maloy’s originals are included here. He’s written at least 159 tunes, released in a previous collection; friend and producer Tom Mindte estimates that the number actually exceeds 1,000. Anastasio penned all of the triple fiddle arrangements, and all three fiddlers play on every tune. Maloy handles the melody, Driscoll the high harmony, and Anastasio the low harmony. Maloy, who just turned 90, has been performing for over 60 years. Add to these three talents Brennen Ernst and Billy Puckett on guitar, Danny Knicely and Taylor Baker on mandolin, Ralph Gordon on bass, and vocals by Tom Mindte, and you have the makings of a must-have album. The songs are perfectly arranged on *Stop, Look & Listen*, and a treat for both listeners and players.

– Michael K. Brantley

The Maloy Brothers, *Time Will Tell* [Patuxent; pxrec.com]

It is rare to run across an individual who has decades of experience doing something at a really high level. Finding two would be nearly impossible. But that’s exactly what listeners get from Frank and Joe, The Maloy Brothers, on *Time Will Tell*.

As teenagers, the boys were playing on the radio station WBHB in Georgia in 1946 – that’s the same year Ted Williams won his first MVP with the Boston Red Sox. With Frank on fiddle and Joe (d. 2005) on guitar, the boys played through all kinds of bands and on several radio and TV shows. They covered country, western swing, and later even beach music and 1950s rock and roll. Although Joe also played bass, mandolin, and fiddle, and Frank was also adept on guitar, mandolin, saxophone, and clarinet, this album sticks to guitar and fiddle.

Recorded in 1999, *Time Will Tell* is a delight from the opening title track all the way through 18 cuts, offering plenty of variety and simply top-notch musicianship. It is hard to believe that despite over a half century of making music, this was the brothers’ first commercial recording. Fittingly, the CD was recorded not in a high-tech studio, but on reel-to-reel equipment in a friend’s living room in Tifton, Georgia. The brothers sat across from each other and played through, and there is no overdubbing. This gem is one that belongs in every fiddle lover’s collection.

– Michael K. Brantley