

Reviews

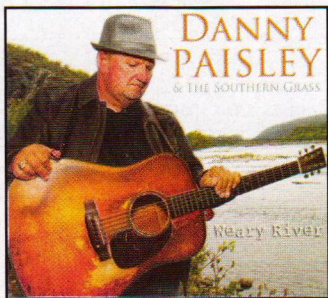
Buckingham, Nancy Cardwell, Bill Conger, Bill Foster, Henry Koretzky, Chris V. Stuart, Bill Wagner

funeral of a Godly man (normally dressed in bib overalls) who is *all dressed up with somewhere to go*. A co-write with Lisa Shaffer, "Mountain View Missionary Baptist Church" takes us to a country church where we meet colorful characters and can almost see the smiles and handshakes extended in fellowship.

Dale Ann Bradley guests on "Send The Angels Down," a Salley composition she recorded and performs on the road often. Co-writer Steven Curtis Chapman joins Salley on a stripped down, acoustic version of "His Strength Is Perfect," singing candidly about hard times and human weakness. "You Don't Have To Go Home," another Salley composition, has been recorded multiple times by bluegrass and gospel artists. Jerry's characters come to life again in the last song, "I Want To Thank You." The song thanks a variety of folks who witness in little creative ways and exhorts us to not be afraid to show our faith *in a world that needs His mercy and grace*. This album is masterfully crafted and extremely inspirational. Highly recommended. (Jerry Salley, P.O. Box 121041, Nashville, TN 37212, www.jerrysalley.com.)NC

DANNY PAISLEY & THE SOUTHERN GRASS *WEARY RIVER*

Patuxent Records
CD-270



Dan Paisley & the Southern Grass avidly revisit and revitalize the back pages of bluegrass music's roots, as well as the back pages of their band's own rich tradition. With Paisley's teenage son Ryan on mandolin, that tradition now stretches across three generations.

Paisley and company, on this release as on previous ones, delve into the rough-hewn, high-energy, high-lonesome styles of the music's founding fathers with a real ferociousness. There's nothing prettified or progressive about their sound. It's robust, hard-driving, and infused with soulful intensity and rustic artistry. No fewer than five of the 13 selections on *Weary River* are old enough to come from the public domain. Along with chestnuts by Bill Monroe ("Come Hither To Go Yonder") and A.P. Carter ("Darling Nellie Across The Sea"), they've also dusted off "Talk To Your Heart," a 1950s honky-tonk hit for Ray Price, and "Mother Knows Best," a Marty Robbins original from way back.

Southern Grass's lineup includes master fiddler T.J. Lundy, whose father Ted once played

with Danny's father Bob in an earlier iteration of this long-standing family band. Lundy and his bandmates strut their hot licks on the instrumentals "Fall Branch" (composed by banjo player Mark Delaney) and Monroe's "Come Hither To Go Yonder." They also deliver some amazing harmonies on selections like Carter's "Darling Nellie," Merle Haggard's "Somewhere Between" and the raucous old lament, "Please Don't Honey Please."

The real showstopper is the title tune penned by Chris Stuart. It's a starkly tragic and immensely moving ballad about a doomed and defeated man's last lamentations as he wades out into a raging river and lets it pull him under. (Patuxent Music, P.O. Box 572, Rockville, MD 20848, www.pxrec.com.)BA