

Mark Schatz and Bryan McDowell, *Grit and Polish* [pxrec.com]

This project is full of fun surprises. McDowell proves he is an accomplished multi-instrumentalist and Schatz puts another feather in his cap. The chemistry between these two musicians is fun and often unexpected, like a fiddle-bass duet on “Maiden’s Prayer.” Everything here is entertaining and fun. McDowell’s fiddling and Schatz’s banjo are a good match. Their arrangements hold up to repeated listening and the bareness of the duets provides plenty of sonic room to zoom in on the rich sonority of the instruments. This recording stayed in the player longer than about anything else lately. A fun diversion from the world at large.

– *Bob Buckingham*

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