



Joe Ross

Something a little different from the wealth of acoustic old-time, folk & bluegrass music today

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It's always a pleasure to hear something a little different from the wealth of acoustic old-time, folk and bluegrass music being put out today. Guitarist, singer, clawhammer banjo player, Jim Lloyd plays a pre-WWII gold-plated Gibson Mastertone with a resonator. He covers a lot of ground after opening with the title cut, "The Ghost of Virginia," a tale of a freight train that runs by the light of the moon from Raleigh, North Carolina to Richmond, Virginia. We hear a variety of material that ranges from Uncle Dave Macon ("She's Got the Money Too") to Tom Paxton ("Bottle of Wine"), and Clarence Ashley ("Walkin' Boss") to Neil Diamond ("I'm a Believer"). I especially liked the nod to Laura Nyro by his covering her "And When I Die," as a tribute to that fine folk singer who passed in 1997 at only age 49 due to ovarian cancer. The Turtles' 1967 hit, "Happy Together" could be the theme of this album project that also features Will Eller (bass), Lincoln Hensley (second banjo on "East Tennessee Blues" and Tom Mindte (mandolin on "The Ghost of Virginia"). "Midnight Special" and "The Devil's Right Hand" feature Lloyd's guitar work and vocals. Some rousing instrumentals like "East Tennessee Blues" and "Silver Bell" round out the set. It's a fun set of eclectic music that captures the joy and playfulness of Jim Lloyd and a few of his friends. (Joe Ross, Roots Music Report)