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CD Review: Run of the Mill String Band
Chris Taylor Steal Aboard

How to start?

Let's not beat about the bush – this is a phenomenal recording. I tried putting the CD on the player and sat poised over the keyboard. That's the problem. This is the sort of disc you just have to listen to. It grabs your attention and, before you know it, you're sucked in, unable to do any other task. So I turned it off (eventually).

First to the band, I guess those of you who may have seen the band live or have a copy of this CD will already know just how good they are.

This disc came to me from someone who had travelled to one of the festivals in the States and come into contact with them. Until then I had not heard of them and was amazed to read that this disc, their first, was released in 2005 and nothing since, although wife and husband, Palmer and Greg Loux, have a CD of their own, "In Good Company" released even earlier, in 1998.

Now to the music: this really is a cracker of a CD. It launches with Dixie Banner, a reworking of a Tony Ellis tune, and it's just the sort of track a non-believer would warm to. I don't want to list the tracks as each one is a gem, not a mediocre one in there. Standout track for me is "Big Indian Hornpipe", a fiddle solo. I don't play fiddle but it sounds a tricky tune and Palmer Loux plays it sweetly; really nice to get a solo piece on a band album. Having said that, the musicianship is such that every instrument bears listening to closely. It's also interesting to hear the odd nylon strung instrument accompanying, and what sounds like a bowed bass on a waltz tune.

In total there are 21 tracks and every one is a gem. Beautiful waltzes (I love waltzes) and these are exquisite. A host of tunes from the likes of Ed Haley (Dunbar & Rebel Raid). I defy anyone to listen to this last track and not want to put the whole thing on again. It's just so good. They don't sing a bad song either! Perversely, I was trying to think of situations where I wouldn't want to play it – and I thought of one – driving. You see you'd just have to stop and give it your whole attention, it's that sort of disc.

This is great music played by a group of wonderful musician led by Palmer Loux on fiddle. Buy it if you can; Elderly Instruments have it for \$14.95, you won't regret it. www.runotmill.com