Bluegrass Blast

A Mixed Bag of Ol' Timey Music

ROGER SPRUNG
HAL WYLIE
and the Progressive Bluegrassers

with Clawhammer Tunes

KEN KOSEK - Fiddle
RICHARD SMITH - mandolin
ARNIE PELOMAN - 4-string banjo
CORKY BALLARD - bass

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FTS 31038 - STERE
"I was happy to be awarded World's Champion in 1970 in Union Grove, North Carolina. I've received a trophy from the convention. I happened to strike the judges right with a song called "Whiskey Before Breakfast." The contest went from 3:00 in the afternoon until night-time. As far as I'm concerned, the last thing on my mind is to win a contest, but I go on, and play. So I went on about 3:30...there were about 300 people in the audience and from what I hear, when the last person went on there were about 10,000 people. About 300 people saw me, and I won, which is very unusual. But that's playing fair...the amount of applause or the amount of people cheering is not what makes a winner, though in some contests it does. It happened to be an old-time fiddle tune, and not one that people knew, like "Dueling Banjos." So when I won, I was surprised, I went back to my van where I buy and sell instruments, and all my friends gathered in a circle around a campfire and played. We were oblivious to everything that was going on around us. People came in and out of the circle from all over. I heard that Union Grove was pretty bad that year, but we had a good time."

"This year, gas willing, I'll go to the smaller one in the same town, called "Fiddler's Grove." I find that people are going to the smaller fiddlers' conventions because more of the oldtimers go there."

"A lot of banjo players, I have played with the Philadelphia Folk Festival. I've always liked the way he plays. He's a very polished musician, and on this album he does a superb job of playing. You take a person for granted all the time, but he's somebody to take for granted. I think he's in his early twenties. Ken isn't part of the Progressive Blue Grassers, but we were fortunate to get him for this album."

"Richard Smith is from the Princeton area. He plays a fiddle as well with us."

"Arnie Feldman is another friend of mine. He is not a professional...just a person who enjoys a 4-string banjo. He's an old Vaga in his ".15" banjo, which is very strong because the neck was cracked. He put it together with a little glue and now he's got a priceless banjo."

"Some Comments about Roger Sprung..."Roger has...an inventive banjo...he achieves some fascinating flights of inspiration."--Robert Shelton, New York Times.

..."one of the best musicians in the country...one of the best all around banjo players active today..."--Saturday Review.

..."plays the banjo as if he invented the instrument..."--Journal American.

..."An exciting city swing...a new sound has emerged..."--Alan Lomax.

..."Long may he crackle!"--Pete Seeger.

..."one of my favorite old-time banjo players..."--Bill Monroe.

..."a virtuoso of the banjo...his experimentation has opened up many new possibilities for others..."--Bob Beers.

..."the necessary note of genuineness and sincerity so important in this kind of music."--Bascom Lamar Lunsford.

..."Roger Sprung is different - there is really nobody to compare him with..."--B.M.G., England.

..."the Happiest banjo sound going..."--Virginia Pilot Lighthouse.

OTHER INSTRUMENTAL ALBUMS BY ROGER SPRUNG & THE PROGRESSIVE BLUE GRASSERS ON FOLKWAYS RECORDS

Vol. 1: Progressive Bluegrass (FA 2370)


Strawberry Picker Picking Mostly dealing with Early 20th Century Songs with Doc Watson

Vol. 2: Ragtime Bluegrass (FA 2371)

Bill Pickle Rag - Shoot the Turkey Buzzard - Misirlou - Chinatown - Puff the Magic Dragon - Tiger Rag - Sweet Georgia Brown - Gie Gondons - Silver Rainbow - Arkansas Traveler - How High the Moon - Georgia Camp Meeting - That's Plenty

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Mountain Bluegrass and Hornpipe, Plus a Few Oddities with Jaw Harp, Harmonica Etc. Good Single Note Banjo Playing

Vol. 4: Grassly Licks (FTS 31036)

8-TRACK: #31036


Everything From Mozart to Mountain Bluegrass, Dixieland and Old Favorites, Stereo.

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