

fROOTS

Local Music From Out There



carolina chocolate drops
looking back moves old time music forwards

BILL STAINES

Old Dogs Red House Records RHR CD 208

Like its three-year-old predecessor *Journey Home*, *Old Dogs* was recorded at Larry Luddecke's Straight Up Studio in Arlington, Mass. Ably supported by many of the 'usual suspects' – Brian Wood, Mike Walsh, Bill Novick, John Curtis, Guy Van Duser and not least, Luddecke – Staines has come up with a thirteen-song collection featuring original and cover songs to which he has appended another 'mature in years' title. Co-produced by Larry and Bill, Staines opens with [the self-penned] *Old Dogs*, a reflection on the memories that the passage of years – nay decades – brings, and he continues reflecting on old age with a reading of Joseph Spence's *Great Dream From Heaven*. For a just-turned-60 New Englander, Bill's *Sweet Wyoming Home* is a mellifluous lyrical fiction, and, additionally, the touching tale of a weary, down on his luck, travelling bull rider.

In his liner notes, Staines explains that the two-song, *Cotten Pickin'*, is a tribute to the late Elizabeth Cotten [d. 1987] the traditional blues/ folk musician and left-handed guitarist. John Stewart's *Cody* first appeared in his 1968 duo recording *Signals Through The Glass* with wife Buffy Ford, while *Lone Star Hotel Café*, Guy Clark's tale of bittersweet unrequited love, is simply a quarter century old classic. The penultimate song, *The Heavens And The Years*, once more finds Staines in a 'time based' reflective mood. A wistful instrumental, *Andie's Air*, closes yet another laid-back yet entertaining Staines song collection.

www.redhouse.com

Arthur Wood

👉 Jackson Browne *Solo Acoustic Vol. 2*

(Inside INR 8021-9) Browne's in concert reprise of his back catalogue continues apace with this 12-song offering. *Never Stop* and *My Stunning Mystery Companion* from 2002's *The Naked Ride Home* bookend the collection, while less obscure songs include *Something Fine* and *Somebody's Baby*. Replete with engaging audience banter. www.insiderecordings.com

👍 **Various *Our Side Of Town*** (Red House RHR CD 210) Over the years Red House Records has produced some truly fine roots music compilations and *Our Side Of Town* celebrates their 25th anniversary. There are contributions from label originator Greg Brown, plus Ray Bonneville, Cliff Eberhardt, John Gorka, Eliza Gilkyson and relative newcomers Storyhill, The Pines and more. www.redhouserecords.com