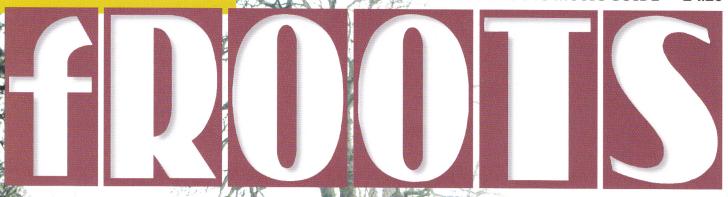
THE ESSENTIAL WORLDWIDE ROOTS MUSIC GUIDE





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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 selfpenned] 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

Ride Home bookend the collection, while less obscure songs include Something Fine and Somebody's Baby. Replete with engaging audience banter. www.insiderecordings.com

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

Various Our Side Of Town (Red House