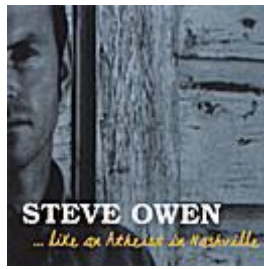


Mp3 Steve Owen - ...like An Atheist In Nashville



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Smart-ass alt. country songwriter with a bluegrass bent. 12 MP3 Songs COUNTRY: Country Folk, COUNTRY: Bluegrass Details: It takes a brave and skillful songwriter to attempt a tune about a one-legged alcoholic clown turned priest. Bay Area singer/songwriter Steve Owen pulls it off, complete with surprise ending, on the Ballad of Wendell T. Phillips, one of the standouts on his third release of country/folk/rock vignettes and road tales. The way Owen tells a story puts him in the Tom T. Hall territory ("Gravedigger" is particularly lean and stunning), while his ability to set a scene recalls Bill Morrissey. With the words center stage, the backing music is somewhat secondary but never second-rate, often low key but never low-maintenance, as banjo, B-3 organ, mandolin, melodica, accordion, and tuba all make at least one appearance. And when things do get comparitavely raucous, such as on the country-shuffling "Comfort" and the catchy chorus of "Sing Me No Love Songs," you may find your ass kicked halfway across the room- in a good way. - Rick Cornell, the Spectator

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