

# Mp3 Chris Henry - Monroe Approved



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Bill Monroe acolyte Chris Henry displays an unequalled passion for the mandolin. His tunes are unmistakable; a fiery drive fuels his playing. CD includes one previously unrecorded Monroe composition. 12 MP3 Songs FOLK: Traditional Folk, COUNTRY: Bluegrass Details: Young Bill Monroe acolyte Chris Henry came by his music honestly. His dad, Red Henry, is a respected Monroe-style mandolinist who passed on his creative spark and dynamic attack to his son. Chris has paid his dues playing guitar with his family band, the Virginia-based Red and Murphy and Their Excellent Children, from the age of eleven, and playing mandolin with such groups as Dave Peterson and 1946, and Audie Blaylock and Redline, since relocating to Nashville in 2003. For the last two years he and his sister Casey have fronted their own band, Casey and Chris and the Two-Stringers, and released their first CD, Get Along Girl, at the beginning of this year. Now with Monroe Approved, his first solo release, Chris displays to the public what mandolin players have known for years: his unmistakable touch and fiery creative passion distinguish him as the premier Monroe stylist of his generation. The idea for Monroe Approved started as a phone call to Chris from Butch Baldassari, who produced the early stages of the recording. Chris wrote and chose material for the project that reflects his approach to Monroe-style mandolin: aggressive, mischievous, and occasionally quite focused and sensitive. He followed Monroes lead to create new tunes that preserve the vigor and heart of hardcore bluegrass. The title cut was inspired by an evening backstage at the Grand Ole Opry when David McLaughlin introduced 12-year-old Christopher to the Father of Bluegrass. Upon hearing the young mandolin picker play Rawhide, Bill took off his hat, placed it on Chriss head, and danced around the room, subsequently saying, If you ever need anything, boy, you come let me know. The three-tune medley Monroe Approved spans more than seven minutes, the music overlaid with the voice of Bill Monroe himself. One tune in the medley, Monroes Big Spring, has never previously been

recorded. Chriss originals The Indians are Coming and Gallatin, Frank Wakefields Catnip (the hidden track), and Red Henrys Reds Zeppelin reflect Chriss penchant for hardcore instrumentals. The triple fiddles of the slow-grooving masterwork James River hark strongly back to the Blue Grass Boys triple-fiddle sound. Listen to the Lonsome Train (Boxcar Door), featuring Roland White, has quickly become a listener favorite for its old-sounding appeal. And the rarely heard triple-mandolin harmony on Farewell to Long Hollow stands out as a highlight. Some of todays top pickers lend their talents here: Ronnie McCoury, Jason Carter, Mike Bub, David McLaughlin, Robert Bowlin, Alan OBryant, and Butch Baldassari, as well as Canadian songster Adam Olmstead, Chriss uncle John Hedgecoth, sister Casey Henry, and father Red Henry.

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