

Mp3 Chuck McCabe - Sweet Reunion



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Acoustic music with Southern roots and Celtic heritage: story songs with a little banjo, some great blues harp, dobro and fiddle 14 MP3 Songs FOLK: Folk Blues, COUNTRY: Country Folk Details: Chuck celebrates his Southern roots and Celtic heritage in this collection of story songs. Now funny, now sad, always entertaining and often thought-provoking. Mike Simpson, of TrueWind Music, says: Sweet Reunion is my favorite, of McCabes albums. It is visually the richest, and includes a fine picture of the singer as a youth, amidst the family that helped form him. The Point is clear: we need to go back and look again at what made us what we are - the past has given us things worth keeping. With a little blues and gospel, a dash of country and some stirring Celtic flavor, the instrumental work on this album is mostly acoustic, string band stuff- guitar, Dobro, banjo, bass and harmonica, all superbly played by Norton Buffalo (Steve Miller Band), Rob Ickes (Blue Highway), Brian McNeill (Battlefield Band), Myron Dove (Santana) and David Brewer (Mollys Revenge). The stellar production by Joe Weed is worth the price alone, and the songs are among McCabes best. Rambles Review: Sweet Reunion marks McCabe's first real flirtation with Celtic musical influences. The thought of a meat-and-potatoes American folk musician like McCabe dealing out Celtic fiddle and Scottish pipes at first seems questionable. But there's no attempt here to be another faux-Celtic musician. McCabe borrows just enough from his Irish-Scottish roots to inspire his own style. The results are an exuberant and very American synthesis. Two songs draw most obviously from McCabe's Celtic experiment. "The Junk in Murphy's Yard" is a simply perfect song that covers art, life, death and immortality with the imagination and whimsy of a Dr. Seuss or Shel Silverstein poem. The sparkling percussion that echoes the rain of the song turns into a step-dancing rhythm or a dirge with perfect timing. "Erin the Fair (Caledonia the Brave)" is a homage to the suffering of the Celtic immigrants who made the McCabe name and so many others into common American

surnames. Pipes and whistles call out the defiance and sorrow of all those who left their homes behind to find a better future across the sea. But no matter where McCabe comes from, he's an American boy, and Sweet Reunion has the rhythm and blues to prove it, and plenty of wild country to prove it in. "Grandpa Played Softball" and "That's What I Like About My Baby" show off McCabe's flair for celebrating the everyday, along with some surprisingly elegant rhyme schemes and outright great guitar work. "Gone to Utah" paints the vibrant colors and wide open spaces of the American Southwest in strokes of steel strings and the lingering touch of suspended chords. "Deliver Us from Evil" and "No Good to Me Now" borrow from the distant but related realms of blues and gospel, one a thunder-heavy prayer on the wickedness of life, the other a joyful, horn-backed celebration of personal growth. "Sweet Reunion" is the perfect ending to an album full of separations and brief alliances, a powerfully hopeful promise of better eternities. McCabe is one of our great singing poets, and he does it all without any overt pretense at poetry. No straining experimental rhyme schemes, no deconstructed traditions. He just gets out there and says the important things that everyone knows, but few can put it into words. He can put those things into words; better still, he can put them into music. His guitar work is powerful, his vocals are low and pitched right into the spine; but it's that rare gift of expression that makes Sweet Reunion truly satisfy, ears, mind and soul. by Sarah Meador Rambles.NET 1 April 2006

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