

**Review of Concert by John Reischman and The Jaybirds at the Lucy Opry on
9/20/08**

by Betty Westmoreland

On September, 20, 2008, bluegrass concert-goers at the Bartlett, TN, Lucy Opry were treated to some powerful Canadian and West Coast bluegrass cooked up by **JOHN REISCHMAN AND THE JAYBIRDS**. Flashy or sparkling? Hardly! But rock-solid and dead-on pure bluegrass with a Reischman twist? Ah, you bet! John Reischman and The Jaybirds played two sets of warm, near-perfect music right from the very first note. Their work is of such high quality that they made it look easy, like nothing much was going on. Plenty was happening in their selection of original bluegrass and old-time music. They don't sound like everybody else. These folks are the real deal!

JOHN REISCHMAN now resides in Vancouver, BC. He has toured with the **TONY RICE UNIT** and the **GOOD OL' PERSONS** from the West Coast before going solo and then returning with The Jaybirds. Highly respected among mandolin players around the world, his superior work is legendary. Reischman's vocals round out the sound of the band. His subtle, dry wit is another story. The conversation between John and the band members was clever and comfortable.

JIM NUNALLY is from the San Francisco Bay area, and he more than proved his reputation as a fine guitarist, high lonesome bluegrass vocalist, and composer. Nunally knows his way around this music! In demand as a session player, Nunally is featured on the popular album by David Grisman and Sam Bush called "Hold On, We're Strummin'".

TRISHA GAGNON is from Chilliwack, BC, and she wields a fine upright bass. Her smile, her solid bass work, and her strong lead voice make her an integral part of the way the band delivers a song. Her detailed descriptions of childhood memories of home in British Columbia made this writer want to contact a travel agent right then and there. Prior to joining John Reischman and The Jaybirds, Gagnon and her sister, along with others, performed as Tumbleweed, a top-notch Canadian band.

NICK HORNBUCKLE is from Seattle, WA, and is considered to be one of the leading traditional banjo players in that region. His two-finger style provides clean, pure notes which add to the band's unique sound. He doesn't try to play every lick in the book. It's just perfectly suited to the Jaybirds. Hornbuckle's "Arrowhead" is fast becoming a mainstay in the world of bluegrass jamming.

GREG SPATZ lives in Spokane, WA, and he has been called a world-class bluegrass fiddler for good reason. As unassuming as the other members of the Jaybirds, Spatz

simply delivers! He has performed with Frank Wakefield and Rob Ickes, resophonic guitar stylist and a favorite among Memphis bluegrass fans.

Set 1

Hop High Little Gal

Shackles and Chains of the Work Gang

The Jaybird Song

Her Bright Smile

Cleo Belle (written for Hornbuckle's daughter)

A Dime in My Pocket (Hornbuckle adapted from the book *Will You Miss Me?*)

Drunkard's Lantern

Allen's Creek (a Tennessee location near Hohenwald—Reischman's father's home area)

Say Darlin' Say

On My Way to You

Little Rabbit (Spatz featured)

Set 2

The 8th of February

Darlin' Nellie

Blackberry Bramble

Liza Jane

You'll Find Her Name Written There

Plum Tree (written by Reischman)

The Road West (written by Nunally)

She Could Have Loved Him

Arrowhead (written by Hornbuckle)

Home Sweet Home (written by Gagnon)

Sandy Boys

Encore: Hold What Ya Got, I'm Comin' Home Baby (tribute to Jimmy Martin)

Although the turnout for John Reischman and The Jaybirds was small, the band rose to the occasion and made many fans and friends while they were in the area. Their band and solo albums are major contributions to the worlds of traditional and not-so-traditional bluegrass music. This writer would enjoy hearing this fine band again.

For more information:

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