

The new Fade2Blue album, "Climbing The Walls" had to happen!

This group, though still quite early in their career as a bluegrass unit, clearly demonstrates a deep knowledge of what it takes to interpret the true spirit of bluegrass whilst bringing to it great originality. "Climbing The Walls", itself an excellent tune, is a delight from beginning to end. There are many bluegrass bands who, thankfully, love and respect the music and its history and love to jam with it whenever they can, even record an album of their work, but here, on this album, Fade2Blue demonstrates a vitality, purpose and high quality of performance not always found on the one body of work. Even what may be said to be the "surprise" of the album, "Together Again" is sung and played with gusto and immediately enters the bluegrass lexicon.

Bluegrass has always been able to portray loss, sadness or "heart-broken-ness" in a way which engages the listener and makes one feel good. So it is here with "Broke Up". Through the gentleness of "Love Like This" to the powerfully executed "Blue Trail Of Sorrow" the album offers great variety and a consistently high standard of singing and playing. The sole gospel entry, the classic "Wicked Path Of Sin" shows off the group in tight, close harmony: four voices, one guitar, the way it should be. A compliment, too, to those responsible for the mixing of this album for consistently clear, forward sound.

Fade2Blue is a keen, dedicated group which knows and loves its music and aims to write and perform it to a high standard.

Geoff Morris

WALL-TO-WALL BLUEGRASS

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