

Ordinary Soul

CD: Ordinary Soul

Artist: Stephen Mougín

Label: Dark Shadow Recording

Artist Website: stephenmougin.com

Label Website: darkshadowrecording.com

Songwriter, singer, guitarist, producer, and Sam Bush Band stalwart, Stephen Mougín has released a new CD, Ordinary Soul through his Dark Shadow Recording label. Ordinary Soul has ten Mougín original songs, ranging from hot bluegrass to poignant country ballads, featuring an all star band. The stellar songwriting and singing of Mougín, and contributions from banjoist Ned Luberecki, fiddlers Laura Orshaw and Becky Buller, and the mandolin and fiddle of the instantly recognizable Sam Bush bring some heavyweight power to this CD.

Twelve well produced songs give one a lot of listening for their money. The song selection is as follows:

- (1) New Beginnings
- (2) Color Me Lonely
- (3) The Song That I call Home
- (4) Railroad Man
- (5) A Place for a Fool
- (6) On the Riverside
- (7) Play Me a Sad Song Again
- (8) Last Time for Everything
- (9) Only You and You Alone
- (10) Handful of Dust
- (11) You Only Like Old Things
- (12) I'm Gonna Ride

Favorites are *New Beginnings*; *Railroad Man*, a real thumper

where the overall vibe and the fiddling of Sam Bush put me in mind of the original Newgrass Revival; the country shuffle *A Place for a Fool* with Mike Bub's delightful walking bass, *On the Riverside* with its delightful harmonies; the waltz-time dirge, *Play Me A Sad Song Again*; *Last Time for Everything*, with Ned Luberecki's hot banjo work and a particularly enjoyable mandolin break from Cory Piatt (and if I spelled that wrong, sorry Cory. My ears are better than my eyes and I had to get out the magnifying glass to read the extremely small type); the forbodingly dark *Handful of Dust*, penned by Becky Buller; and perhaps my favorite favorite, *You Only Like Old Things*, featuring just Mougins and his guitar. There's nothing like one voice and one guitar. The line "Will I ever be part of your sepia tone world" just grabbed this songwriter. I admire a good line when I hear it. This is a good one.

That's seven favorites out a twelve song selection. That says a lot. I had the opportunity to work the Alabama Folk School with Mougins a few years ago. I enjoyed him and his guitar all alone on the stage. I now enjoy *Ordinary Soul*, from an extraordinary musician. I listened to this CD all the way through six times. It starts out good and gets better with every listen.

That's the way it should be.

Mississippi Chris Sharp

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