

Jake Schepps Quintet 'Entwined'
Press Quotes 2015
www.jakeschepps.com

Nothing here is less than appealing for the progressive bluegrass fan for whom the music is likely intended, and banjoist Schepps, also serving as producer, delivers admirably clear and idiomatic sound from a trio of Colorado studios. Recommended for anyone interested in hearing progressive bluegrass pushed one click past where it has gone before, or for fans of contemporary classical music curious about what can be done with one of the classic ensembles of American vernacular music.
–James Manheim, Allmusic.com

“The long-form arrangements of "Entwined" as a collective whole is one of the more elegant and cathartically daring recordings to surface in this young year.”
–Spotlight Magazine

“Entwined is an immensely thoughtful endeavor. The quintet revels in the natural expressive versatility of its instrumentation while suggesting that the traditional string band can be stretched further still. There are the riff-laden, cyclically expansive melodies of Mellits's "Flatiron;" the lush counterpoint and pitter-patter rhythmic intricacies McBane employs in "Drawn;" and Gyan Riley's mercurial "Stumble Smooth," with its delightfully dizzy phrases and playful use of mixed meter.”
–I Care if You Listen

The result is “Entwined,” a classically infused bluegrass album featuring music by Marc Mellits, Matthew McBane, Gyan Riley, and Matt Finner that’s rhythmically dynamic, harmonically complex, and has got some serious groove.... Schepps and his bluegrass quintet — mandolinist Finner, guitarist Jordan Tice, violinist Ryan Drickey, and bassist Andrew Small — bring their mesmerizing musical alchemy to Cambridge’s Club Passim on Monday.
–Boston Globe

“But there are those who see past the instrument’s stereotypes, who love it in spite of its

baggage, like Boulder-based banjo virtuoso Jake Schepps, who’s made a career of pushing through false genre boundaries and redefining where the banjo “fits” in music.”
– Boulder Weekly

Boulder banjo player Jake Schepps looked to unusual sources for his bluegrass quintet's latest disc. After recording arrangements of composer Bela Bartok’s music in 2011, he went in another direction and found four contemporary classical composers to write new music for his group. Under Schepps’ guidance, the composers listened to his favorite modern bluegrass music and also learned to write for an instrument they rarely encounter in the classical world.
–Colorado Public Radio, Colorado Matters 2/26

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–iTunes Entwined review 2/25/15

The Jake Schepps Quintet have chops to match their utter lack of fear.
–Lucid Culture 2/5/15

On Entwined Jake Schepps offers his fans nearly 78 minutes of listening pleasure that is sure to keep you interested from start to finish.
–AXS 1/3/15

Entwined is an adventurous project that champions the versatility of the bluegrass ensemble. Schepps and his collaborators have given us a loosened-up bluegrass collection that even modern classical lovers will enjoy.
–Second Inversion

Colorado banjoist Jake Schepps has been on the forefront of melding bluegrass instruments with classical music for many years. He recorded an album of Béla Bartok music arranged for a string band, *An Evening In The Village*, and is now preparing to release *Entwined*, a collection of four new compositions commissioned for his Jake Schepps Quintet.

–Bluegrass Today

While his nimble touch and deep sensitivity to the five-string banjo's idiomatic qualities are deeply rooted in traditional and progressive bluegrass styles, it's his insatiable curiosity and open spirit that have brought him to the exciting frontier of new acoustic music, alongside Punch Brothers, mandolin master David Grisman, and violinist Darol Anger.

A champion of the myriad possibilities of the string band, Schepps has made a name for himself as an ingenious arranger and performer of decidedly non-bluegrass material, a reputation that has evolved and deepened over the course of three critically-acclaimed albums

–WERU FM (Maine) (Featured Artist of the Week)

Entwined is a rare CD which offers something substantial for people who enjoy fine music in any genre, and I won't be surprised if it achieves breakthrough popularity.

–Concertonet

There's a calm subtlety that explodes with heart in this album; a reflection of spirit of bluegrass at its finest.

–Rogers Revue 2/4/15

While enriching the soil of bluegrass/classical fusion, first tilled by Béla Fleck as well as Marc O'Connor and Edgar Meyer, the Jake Schepps Quintet articulates a wider sound palette without

anything sounding self-conscious in its merging of musical cultures.

–New Music Box 12/10/15

–The entire spirit of the music and performances here is as wild and extroverted as that of the Cistercian Monks is focused and inward-looking.

–Transcentury

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Here's quite a daring work. A banjo master from the new school string band corridor commissions some contemporary classical music for his Colorado band of marauders. ...'bluegrass' a quantum leap forward proper to this age of Mars exploration, this is state of the art contemporary instrumental music no matter what colors you want to paint it with. As much Copland and Messiaen as anything else, open your ears to a killer, good time. Well done.

–Midwest Record

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Any library that supports a composition program should seriously consider acquiring this disc, which shows how thoughtful, complex, and attractive fully-composed music for string band can be.

–CD Hotlist

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This recording highlights Schepps' highly musical playing and incredible touch on the banjo. Yes, he's rooted in Earl, like all great players, but, like all great players he's moved the banjo into a dream-state crepuscular land where nothing on the instrument is impossible

- Soundchoice