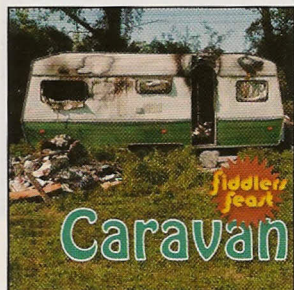


CD Reviews



TN1860-40 - \$25.00

Fiddler's Feast - Caravan

CD review by Ian Dearden

Let's not beat around the bush with this review.

Fiddler's Feast is a vehicle to showcase the amazing talents of the extraordinarily gifted fiddler and multi-instrumentalist, Marcus Holden.

And it does so in spades.

Get a load of this - on this album, Marcus plays violin, viola, baritone viola/contralto, chincello, 5 string violin, mandolin, electric mandolin, tenor guitar, cittern, acoustic guitar, and a no.9 wood saw (with a violin bow).

Much of the time, thanks to the miracle of modern multi-tracking, Marcus is playing a number of these different instruments simultaneously, and/or

multiple layers of those instruments.

And he does so with extraordinary versatility, virtuosity and damn good taste.

He plays fast, he plays slow, he lays down lush and seductive soundscapes, then stuns with a single, exquisite fiddle line.

With a core backing group of Rodney Ford on drums, Garry Steel on piano, Fender Rhodes and accordion, John Coker on electric bass and Stamatis Valacos on double bass (plus a range of guests on individual songs) providing a solid platform, the focus is (primarily) on those stunning instrumental skills of Marcus on the various instruments in his arsenal.

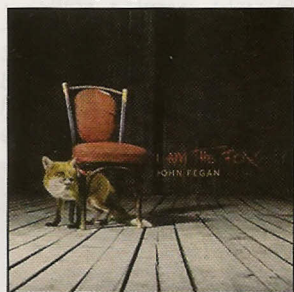
He gets to stretch out over a wide range of musical genres.

From the opening Fats Domino track, 'I'm Walkin' featuring vocals from drummer Rodney Ford, through a high speed Mozart romp ('Rondo Alla Turca'), to a set of traditional tunes ('Angeline the Baker/Marian's Reel/King of the Fairies), Dave Brubeck's 'Blue Rondo Alla Turk', to an instrumental reading of the Easybeats 'Friday on my Mind', winding up with a delicious parody of 'The Devil Went Down to Georgia', retitled 'The

Devil Went Down To Tamworth', this is literally a whirlwind of an album!

My own personal favourites on this album (not an easy pick, given how marvellous all the tracks are) include the Marcus Holden original (New Age-ish) tune 'Moon on the Lake', the weirdly wonderful saw playing on the traditional 'Aura Lee', and Django Reinhardt's 'Swing 48'.

Deliciously and wildly eclectic, with everything from traditional, blues, jazz, swing and a touch the old rock and roll, this is an album you just can't stop playing.



TN1868-62 - \$20.00

John Fegan - I Am The Fox

CD Review by Ian Dearden

John Fegan is one of the larger than life characters in Australian folk/roots music.

Currently the lead singer of Rough Red, one of Australia's leading folk rock bands at present experiencing a full on revival (new album and a European tour coming up

