

partners in time

jeff midkiff

With its deft, thoughtful blend of classical, bluegrass, jazz and swing influences, **partners in time** is an outstanding debut. Filled with memorable original melodies and a selection of vintage tunes, **partners in time** reflects a broad-ranging sensibility that's all too rare in today's compartmentalized musical world.

At the center of the album are a half-dozen original compositions that reflect Jeff's deep and wide-ranging musical experience. Rounding out the album are four covers that pay more direct homage to Jeff's inspirations, including Gershwin's "Lady Be Good" and "Summertime," the traditional tune "Little Liza Jane," and "Monroe's Hornpipe," by Bill Monroe, the father of bluegrass.

— Jon Weisberger



Song list

Bluegrass: Grey Hawk, Goodbye Liza Jane, Monroe's Hornpipe

Gershwin: Summertime, Lady Be Good

Jazz-infused acoustic: Partners In Time, A Visit From the Muse, Funk Tango, Alhambra, Etheria

Personnel

Jeff Midkiff: Mandolin, Fiddle

Curtis Jones: Guitars

Robbie Link: Bass

Bill Ray: Percussion

Label: Etheria Music
Record number: EM1001



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Jeff Midkiff grew up in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, where bluegrass and traditional string band music thrive. Given his first mandolin at the age of 7 by his neighbor, he moved quickly into the world of fiddlers' conventions and contests, winning his first mandolin competition before reaching his teens.

Later, he added the fiddle to his instrumental arsenal and joined the **New Grass Revue**. In the 1980s, Jeff gained attention as a mandolin and fiddle player with the **McPeak Brothers**, with whom he made his first serious recording in 1982.

In 1983, Jeff joined the **Lonesome River Band** shortly after its formation and recorded their first two albums with them. He played with LRB for five years.

Jeff has been touring with **The Schankman Twins** for the last five years. With this debut CD, Jeff is launching his solo career.

Jeff is active in bluegrass and classical circles, performing regularly as soloist, band leader and sideman in Chicago and throughout the world. Jeff holds music degrees from Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University.

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I was highly impressed by the variety of musical character, the sheer virtuosity, and the generally high quality of musicianship on Jeff Midkiff's new CD project. This effort transcends genre and is just plain old great playing by any standard.

**Larry Combs, Principal Clarinet,
Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

This [CD] is an eclectic compilation of material. Not just bluegrass, swing, bebop, jazz or classical, but all these things as I knew only Jeff could accomplish.

Tim Austin, Doobie Shea Records

*Midkiff exposes a plethora of global influence in his work through a series of ambitious original compositions. This is music that lives and breathes. **Partners In Time** captures the intensity and joy that has always been a part of the progressive wing of bluegrass.*

Steve Romanoski, Bluegrass Music News



Photographs of Jeff and his biography are also available online as downloadable files.

Go to
www.jeffmidkiff.com