

Commercial Appeal

"Hot Sounds"

by Bill Ellis
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"The River Bluff Clan may have called it a day, but their spirit lives joyfully on in the charmed songs of Jimmy Davis ... " "Davis' 11-track solo outing, Jimmy Daddy's Acoustic Song List, finds the singer front and center with only his rhythm guitar. The results, however, feel less like a song-shopping demo than a modern-day field recording where the Delta Appalachia axis in Davis' country rock originals is whittled down to its earthy essence. If you didn't know Davis wrote or co-wrote all these songs, you'd swear such tunes as "Grandmother's Quilt", "Devil's Den", "Buffalo Road" or "Down Where the River Flows" had been passed down for generations. And no slight against the sorely missed Clan, but you may just end up preferring a tune like "Waiting in the Wings" in its more immediate rendering here yearning as high lonesome art. In lieu of arrangements, Davis' plaintively powerful vocals do all the suggesting, giving flight to melodies that echo like half-forgotten memories, half-remembered tears. Jimmy Daddy's Acoustic Song List is an unassuming triumph and as honest a record as you're likely to hear ... "

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