

THE ASPEN TIMES

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Jesse McReynolds, a singer and mandolinist, honors Garcia with “Songs of the Grateful Dead: A Tribute to Jerry Garcia & Robert Hunter.” Working with a cast that includes members of the extended Dead family — singer-guitarist David Nelson and banjoist Sandy Rothman, from Garcia's acoustic band; guitarist Stu Allen of the Dead tribute band Dark Star Orchestra — McReynolds shows an inquisitive mind, and strong musical prowess, for an 81-year-old. The music here is more folk-rock than bluegrass, and the song choices show a wide range: rockers and more acoustic-based tunes, old and more recent. McReynolds puts a stamp on the world-weary “Standing on the Moon,” and rocks out on “Alabama Getaway.”

For the finale, he teams with Robert Hunter for a new song, the gospel-flavored “Day by Day.”

- Stewart Oksenhorn