



'Songs Of The Grateful Dead,' Jesse McReynolds & Friends (Woodstock Records, 4 1/2 stars)

This Oct. 5 CD comes from one of our country's greatest music legends, mandolin innovator/stylist Jesse McReynolds, who has been a Grand Ole Opry member for over 45 years and is a multiple Grammy nominee/winner. Jesse and brother Jim (Jim & Jesse) have numerous honors including being inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame's "Walkway of Stars" and Bill Monroe's Bluegrass Hall of Fame.

Jesse has now taken another musical step by recording part of The Grateful Dead's repertoire, which he performed with friends David Nelson (New Riders Of The Purple Sage) and Stu Allen. Twelve of the finest songs written by Robert Hunter and Jerry Garcia plus a bonus track, "Day By Day" penned by Jesse & Hunter.

I'm not very familiar with the original versions of most tunes, but "Black Muddy River," "Ripple," "Standing on the Moon," "Stella Blue," "Deep Elem Blues" and the new song should please bluegrass and Grateful Dead fans.

- Ricky Flake