



Jesse McReynolds

“I think some people don’t know if I’m serious about this,” said [Grand Ole Opry](#) member and [International Bluegrass Music Association](#) Hall of Famer [Jesse McReynolds](#), 81. “I mentioned on the Opry that I had recorded a new CD that’s a tribute to the [Grateful Dead](#), and some people laughed, thinking I was kidding. But after playing, I got a standing ovation.”

McReynolds is serious, and he has long been known for tweaking the boundaries of bluegrass. In 1965, his Jim & Jesse duo with brother Jim McReynolds released *Berry Pickin’ In The Country*, an album featuring down-home versions of Chuck Berry songs.

The new *Songs of the Grateful Dead* album came about after McReynolds’ wife, Joy, began turning him on to Grateful Dead music. McReynolds learned that the Dead’s Jerry Garcia was a Jim & Jesse follower.

“I thought, ‘If he’s a fan of mine, I’d like to do something in return,’” McReynolds said.

That “something” comes in the form of the new album, which finds McReynolds and friends covering 13 Dead songs. McReynolds will play a CD release show on Wednesday, Nov. 17 at Nashville’s [Station Inn](#), 402 12th Ave. S. Cover charge is \$12.

“I never dreamed this would be accepted the way it is,” McReynolds said. “I’ve been putting together a folder of reviews, and that thing’s getting to look like an old Sears catalog.”