ANDY STATMAN

“(I)n Statman’s versatile hands is a music that’s full of surprises, sophisticated and completely accessible at once.” The New York Daily News

P R E S S  C L I P S

Jazz Times

“(S)tying true to ancient traditions while updating melodies via the improvisational nature of jazz…an eclectic blend of folklike simplicity with complex jazz overtones. The moods range from joyously vibrant to darkly plaintive. A fascinating and moving mixture.”

Statman, one of his generation’s premier mandolinists and clarinetists, thinks of his compositions as “a spontaneous, American-roots form of very personal, prayerful hasidic music, by way of avant-garde jazz.”

Statman’s virtuosity has labeled him a genius by his peers.”

Available now on Shefa Records

SOUND OF HIS SOUL

His virtuosity is legendary, his versatility stunning. And as always, Andy Statman’s roots are showing.

HAD THERE BEEN a planetarium in 19th-century Galicia, or a kosher deli in Depression-era Kentucky, Andy Statman’s music might have been playing in the background. Meandering through time, geography and culture in a few passionate, organic gusts of music, neither the man nor his inimitable hybrid sound has a very clearly defined “before” or “after.”

This modest man takes for granted that a performer might embody several worlds in his art, and seems not to recognize that his music, like his story, is extraordinary.

In Concert

It’s a story Statman rewrites with his trio every time they perform: “We’re creating an experience between the audience and us.” Statman performs his distinctive, unconstrained meditations on jazz, klezmer, bluegrass and the human soul with bassist Jim Whitney and percussionist Larry Eagle. “At a certain point, we’re just talking, just having a three-way conversation.” This “conversation” changes each time they have it on stage, no melody sounding quite the same as it did before, and none bearing the definitive stamp of the genre that spawned it.

A totally unselfconscious performer, Statman does not mind that many audiences leave slightly befuddled as to what kind of music, exactly, they have just heard.