

AARON JONAH LEWIS

[Mozart of the Banjo] is just spectacular! [Aaron's] playing and overall musicality is just top notch. Bravo... what else can I say? ... tone is fantastic! ... Timing spot on, just full of life. Piano playing is truly awesome. What a commitment... astounding.

- Jens Krüger

I'm hugely impressed. [Aaron] bring[s] back these good old days... I'm just loving it. [Aaron is] so deep inside this style and [his] playing is great.

- Tony Trischka

Aaron Jonah Lewis is a champion fiddler who has been elbow-deep in traditional American fiddle and banjo music since his first lessons at the age of five with Kentucky native Robert Oppelt. Aaron has taken blue ribbons at the Appalachian String Band Festival in Clifftop, WV, and at the Old Fiddlers Convention in Galax, VA, the oldest and largest fiddlers convention in the country. He is also noted for his mastery of multiple banjo styles. He spends most of his time touring as a solo performer and with the Corn Potato String Band, Lovestruck Balladeers, and other projects.

As a banjoist, Lewis explores some interesting veins in the roots of Old-Time, Bluegrass, Ragtime and Jazz music through his newest recording, "Mozart of the Banjo: The Joe Morley Project." This project is devoted to the music of the great English prodigy and virtuoso composer Joe Morley (1867-1937), who wrote a significant body of great banjo pieces employing a technique that people call "classic fingerstyle" today. Lewis is one of the few performing musicians with the facility to build compelling musical bridges between the printed banjo music and techniques of the 19th century and the instrument's journey into recorded sound by the turn of the 20th century. Other musicians featured on the album include Ben Belcher (double banjo pieces), pianists Tessa Hartle and Kevin Allswede (banjo-piano pieces), Grace van't Hof (ukulele) and Rachel Pearson (bass). In Lewis's words, "An album like this doesn't come along very often. In fact, I don't think an album quite like this has ever been recorded!"

Aaron Jonah Lewis is passionate about sharing early fingerstyle banjo music. He brings light to the fact that classic banjo was the most popular form of music a hundred years ago, though today it's almost entirely forgotten. He is "trying to keep (classic banjo) alive and spread it around, as it's a delightful style that brings joy and connects us to the depth of our shared American history."



SIDE 1

1. DAILY EXERCISE
2. WALK ROUND
3. DAILY EXERCISE 4
4. BANJOTOWN
5. DAILY EXERCISE 3
6. BANJOLAND
7. DAILY EXERCISE 10
8. ZARANA
9. DAILY EXERCISE 11
10. EGYPTIAN PRINCESS
11. DAILY EXERCISE 20
12. SENEGAMBIAN REVELS
13. DAILY EXERCISE 16
14. PALLADIUM RAG

SIDE 2

15. DAILY EXERCISE 17
16. MAUNA LOA
17. DAILY EXERCISE 11
18. CLEMATIS WALTZ
19. DAILY EXERCISE 12
20. A BANJO FROLIC
21. DAILY EXERCISE 6
22. AD ASTRA
23. DAILY EXERCISE 5
24. FRECKLES

Banjo - Aaron Jonah Lewis
Piano - Tessa Hartle
Recording Engineer - Keith Billik
Mixing and Mastering - Mitchell Graham
Assistant Recording Engineer, Piano on *Banjotown* - Kevin Allswede
Cover Artwork & Design, Baritone Ukulele on *Mauna Loa* - Grace van't Hof
Second Banjo on *Freckles* - Ben Belcher
Bass on *Mauna Loa* - Rachel Pearson

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