Bill Frisell - Good Dog, Happy Man (1999)

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01. Rain, Rain (2:45) 02. Roscoe (3:44) 03. Big Shoe (3:50) 04. My Buffalo Girl (8:52) 05. Shenandoah (6:10) play 06. Cadillac 1959 (6:26) 07. The Pioneers (5:18) 08. Cold Cold Ground (9:04) 09. That Was Then (5:31) 10. Monroe (4:21) 11. Good Dog, Happy Man (2:34) play 12. Poem for Eva (3:42)

Bill Frisell: electric and acoustic guitars, loops and music boxes Greg Leisz: pedal steel, Dobro, lap steel, Weissenborn, National steel guitar and mandolin Wayne Horvitz: organ, piano, samples Viktor Krauss: bass Jim Keltner: drums and percussion Ry Cooder: electric guitar, Ripley guitar on "Senandoah".

No doubt pleased with his countrified direction on Gone, Just Like a Train, Bill Frisell gives us a lot more of basically the same thing here -- only with expanded numbers in the ranks. Bassist Viktor Krauss and drummer Jim Keltner return, now accompanied by Wayne Horvitz's understated organ and piano; Greg Leisz on an assortment of fretted instruments, including the dobro, pedal steel guitar and mandolin; and on "Shenandoah," Ry Cooder's atmospheric guitars. The first tracks of Good Dog, Happy Man pick up right where Gone, Just Like a Train left off -- low-key, perhaps too low-key -- but tracks like "Big Shoe" and "Cadillac 1959" add a bit of swagger to the lope and "Poem for Eva" sports the best tune. Again, Frisell often captures a

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loose, evolutionary jamming quality in these sessions, playing the country accents off of his jazz sensibilities. Unlike its predecessor, though, you can't imagine this being recorded on a backwoods front porch, for there are some production tricks and distant-sounding electronic loops that give away its Burbank studio origins. Purists on either side of the jazz/country divide are hereby warned to back off so that the rest of us can enjoy this. - *by Richard S. Ginell, AMG*

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