Matthew Sabatella & the Rambling String Band Ballad of America

songs of people who made a country

Accolades for the Compact Discs

Ballad of America Volume 1: Over a Wide and Fruitful Land

"Gold-throated troubadour Matthew Sabatella was born to make an album like *Ballad of America*. This low-key, acoustic opus is more a Folkways Smithsonian-style history lesson than a random assortment of wispy, coffee shop folk. Casual listeners, watch out: If you pay attention, you might learn something. Nothing if not deeply humanist, these songs reveal the sober, hopeful spirit of the men and women who found fortune, romance, and danger on the open range."

Jonathan Zwickel - Miami New Times

"Performer Matthew Sabatella's rich baritone voice perfectly complements stories of common folk."

Naomi Leithold - American Library Association's *Booklist*

"Matthew Sabatella, singer/producer/arranger, sings 18 traditional folk-style songs in a beautiful, slightly raspy baritone... Excellent background instruments include guitar, banjo, piano, tambourine, sandpaper blocks, fiddle, acoustic bass, drums, harmonica, mandolin, English concertina and bodhran... An excellent resource for schools and public libraries."

Beverly Bixler - School Library Journal

"...his love of this music is infectious and the arrangements are generally quite good. Recommended." Rick Anderson - Baker & Taylor's *CD HotList*

"Sabatella has found a mother lode of nearly forgotten gems, many pre-dating the age of recorded music. He sings these work songs, laments and travelogues with a plaintiveness and thorough appreciation of their meanings and origins, and sets them to lively acoustic arrangements."

Sean Piccoli - Sun-Sentinel

"Over a Wide and Fruitful Land, the album's subtitle, rather neatly sums it up. Matthew Sabatella has assembled a credible song list, dappling America's pioneer landscape with evergreen folklore balladry. His wide-ranging vocal approaches are sensitive when desired, dynamic when untethered emotions dictate. The small group arrangements, at times pared back to a single instrument, are the "just right" sort of settings. This project works "because of", not "in spite of", campfire minimalism. Matthew Sabatella surprises in the most delightful ways. And this is only Volume One. Can't wait for the next leg of the trail."

Eddie O'Strange - Town & Country Radio Show - New Zealand

Ballad of America Volume 2: America Singing

"...seriously consider picking up this, the second volume of Matthew Sabatella's ongoing survey of historical American songs. The arrangements are fresh but traditional, the singing is great, and each track comes with historical notes."

Rick Anderson - Baker & Taylor's CD HotList

"He's recasting traditional tunes... in faithful, well-worn renditions that probably sound much like they did originally, when early settlers making their way west across the open prairies spilled forth the tunes over old-fashioned campfires."

Lee Zimmerman - Miami New Times

"In his second excellent album, Matthew Sabatella sings 16 familiar and mostly traditional American folksongs in a rich baritone. The Rambling String Band joins him, performing beautifully on guitars, dulcimer, harmonica, banjo, bass, mandolin, fiddle, and washboard. The songs bring to mind the culture of America during the 18th and 19th centuries. Fun to sing along and harmonize with, this album belongs in every collection that values folk music."

Beverly Bixler - School Library Journal