



## UAPRESENTS STUDENT CRITIC PROGRAM

### **The Del McCoury Band and The Preservation Hall Jazz Band**

Review by Michael Weingartner

There are some musicians who are so talented with their instrument that they can single-handedly captivate an audience for hours. Take five of those, and you've got the Del McCoury Band. Add seven more from New Orleans' famous Preservation Hall Jazz Band, and you've got a dozen reasons to listen.

Right from the get-go, the music is explosive. It's loud, bold, and exciting. People who were on the edge of their seats waiting for them to begin are now having a hard time staying in their seats. Some are unable to stay seated altogether and stand up to start dancing. There's a physical quality to the music: you can taste it, and it's spicy. Preservation Hall, drawing on the rich and diverse culture of New Orleans, blends their own unique flavor with the Southern Bluegrass of Del and his boys like two great chefs collaborating on a new dish. The music is experimental and improvisational. Everybody gets their solo, and members of each band get the chance to face off with somebody from the other band to show who's best. The winner: by far the audience, who are clapping their hands and tapping their toes well into the intermission.

Whether they call it "Jazz-grass," or "Hillbilly Jazz," the music of these two legendary bands remains all about the musician and all the ways he can make the best music in the world. With greats like Charlie Gabriel on clarinet, Clint Maedgen on saxophone, and Del McCoury himself on guitar, this performance has got some very bold sounds coming from some very talented artists. Each one is a tasty and exciting dish individually. Together, they're a buffet with something for everyone, and plenty of it. Eat until you're stuffed and you'll still be cheering for more.