



Katherine First
Sweet Spot
(Foole First Music)

Maybe you've seen Katherine First kicking rock-and-roll butt with Dicey Riley. Or perhaps you've sampled her music bubbling in an Irish stew at one of the Valley's Celtic sessions. But I doubt you've been prepared for the maturity of her first solo fiddle album. This is almost an anti-Dicey Riley project, as subtle and lyrical as Dicey can be blunt and raucous. Her time studying with Liz Carroll pays dividends in a gorgeous cover of Carroll's "The Island of Woods." She is equally sensitive and controlled in her interpretations of tunes from luminaries such as Phil Cunningham, Dave Richardson, Maurice Lennon, and Peter Ostroushko. Toss in First's own superb compositions, and all signs point to a smoldering talent about to spark.

—Rob Weir

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