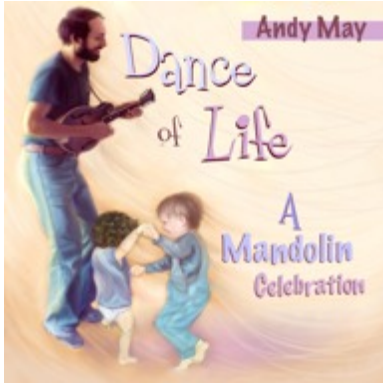


Swift River Music Reissues Andy May's *Dance of Life— a Mandolin Celebration*



SWIFT RIVER MUSIC has reissued Andy May's acclaimed mandolin CD, *Dance of Life—a Mandolin Celebration*. On this project, May mixes the fire of bluegrass with the more laid-back feel of old-time New England country dance music, creating what *Blue-*

grass Unlimited dubbed, "...a beautiful, timeless sound." The reissue features new artwork and liner notes, remixes of a couple of tracks, and a re-mastering of the whole project.

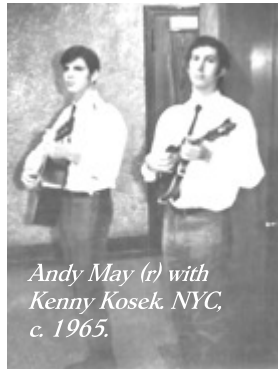
Andy May started playing mandolin in the 1960's during his early High School years. Throughout the 60's, he would go to hear Bill Monroe, David Grissman, and other mandolin greats as often as he could. "My buddy, fiddler Kenny Kosek, and I worked up many 'brother duets' that we learned from records of the Monroe Brothers, the Blue Sky Boys, the Lilly Brothers, and other wonderful old-time and bluegrass groups," says May. With May on mandolin and Kosek on guitar, they performed these songs often in concert and on radio in New York City and New England. May's bluegrass mandolin style came out of this background.

As a busy performing musician in the 1970's and 80's, May always featured mandolin at his shows. "I got a lot of requests for a mandolin record," he recalls, "so in the fall of 1986, I laid down the basic tracks for a mandolin project." He decided to record old tunes that he'd been

playing a lot at the time and a couple of originals, and to present them all in a traditional old-time and bluegrass setting. Then he called some of his favorite musicians, including his old buddy, Kenny Kosek, and asked them if they would join him on this record. "It



Hartford, CT, 1978.



Andy May (r) with Kenny Kosek NYC, c. 1965.



Andy May on stage at MerleFest (Wilkesboro, NC), 2005.

was kind of like, 'Build it and they will come,' from the movie, *Field of Dreams*," said May, "and I'm thankful that they did!" The result became *Dance of Life— a Mandolin Celebration*. It was originally released as a cassette on May's Swift River label in 1987 and then as a CD in 1999. It sold well, got fine reviews and received airplay around the globe.

May continued playing mandolin through the years, and in 2006, he was asked to play on a session for *Everett Lilly & Everybody and Their Brother*, a tribute CD. "I jumped at the opportunity

to celebrate Everett, whose music and mandolin playing with the Lilly Brothers had taught me so much when I was a kid," he said, "and when we were given the opportunity to release the Lilly project on Swift River Music, I was doubly delighted."

But it got even better: on October 2, 2008, at the historic Ryman Auditorium in Nashville Tennessee, the original home of the Grand Ol' Opry, in front of a capacity crowd, *Everett Lilly & Everybody and Their Brother* was named "Recorded Event of the Year" by the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA)! May related, "It was a wonderful experience and I felt like I'd come full circle, helping to honor someone whose music had affected me in such big way."

"That event," May said, "got me thinking I should celebrate my nearly fifty-year friendship with the mandolin by re-releasing my *Dance of Life* CD. And so we did! I hope you enjoy it."

Dance of Life—a Mandolin Celebration is available online at swiftrivermusic.com or from Swift River Music, P.O. Box 231, Gladeville, TN 37071.



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www.swiftrivermusic.com