



April Verch
Bright Like Gold
Slab Town records

Fiddler, step dancer and singer April Verch has travelled both musically and geographically a long way from her Ottawa Valley roots as she has grown from child prodigy to established artist. These days she is recording music in the country, Appalachian old-time and bluegrass vein. She is aided and abetted on Bright Like Gold by guests such as fiddler Bruce Molsky and banjoist Sammy Shelor, as well as her usual accompanists Cody Walters (bass/banjo) and Hayes Griffin (guitars). She alternates between lively fiddle numbers and songs from herself and Walters and Griffin, as well as a few covers including Loretta Lynn's Don't Come Home A Drinkin'. All are played expertly and the instrumentals show off her fiddling chops to great effect. I have to confess I am not a big fan of her singing - it has tremulous quality that I find off-putting. That gripe aside this is another solid release from Ms. Verch and her band.

– By Tim Readman