

Jacques Stotzem

Lonely Road



Belgian fingerstyle guitarist Jacques Stotzem's *Lonely Road*

features nine original fingerstyle guitar compositions (performed on his single-cutaway Martin OMC Jacques Stotzem Signature Edition) that he describes as musical postcards of his travels and experiences on the road as a touring musician. On "Twenty-One," Stotzem charges forth with a strummed rhythm that breaks into an uplifting, lively melody that then shifts with seamless ease into wailing bent notes that add exciting melodic tension and motion. His ability to coax upbeat melodies from his guitar becomes readily apparent in "Picking in Paris," with its jaunty ragtime rhythm, nostalgic melody, and dazzling jazz runs. "The Red Curtain" is a moody standout track that moves unexpectedly from major to minor keys, its tonal shifts punctuated crisply by plaintive, bluesy chords. Tracks like "Irish Hills," "Before and After," and "The Forgotten One" offer gentle, wistful balance to *Lonely Road*, an album that exhibits Stotzem's ability to create meditative musical poems rife with creative textures and beautiful tonal qualities. Highly recommended. (Acoustic Music Records)

—JULIA CROWE