

# Mp3 David Algeo Smith - Thais To The Irish: Fiddle Tunes From The Street

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this album-- a round-the-world tour from the hills of appalachia to the pubs of county clare to forests of northern thailand--features solo fiddling at its best by the 2004 Indiana State Hot Fiddle Champion, David Algeo Smith. 13 MP3 Songs COUNTRY: Traditional Country, FOLK: Traditional Folk Details: David Algeo Smith started as one of the first Suzuki violin students in the USA and spent most of the 1970s studying classical violin before hitting the road from Chicago to New York and London to Paris in 1983. From there he soon hooked up with various buskers and street bands, finding collaboration and inspiration with the Euro-American mega-band The Overexcited (which featured, at times, current acid jazz 8-string guitar wizard Charlie Hunter, tap-dance master Herbin van Cayseele aka Talumbo, and the late great alto saxophonist Calder Spanier), street-rat phenomenon The Rhythm Pygmies (with Marseille gypsy powerhouse Christian Fernandez on guitar/vocals) and other great impromptu formations from the heady summers of mid-to-late '80s France and Switzerland. With the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the subsequent descent of America's ominous "new world order," Smith sought refuge in the comforts of Northern Thailand where he was immediately recruited by Chiangmai's incomparable Banjoman Band, one of the Land of Smiles' premiere "country and eastern" string bands. Eight years and half a dozen albums later, this expatriate American fiddler decided to strike out on his own with a solo album of fiddle tunes collected from his many travels and friends. "Thais to the Irish: fiddle tunes from the street" is the final product of those efforts. Recorded and produced at Thomas van Nes's Thomasso Studios in Sankhampaeng, Thailand in March 2001 and released the week before 9/11, this "kid-friendly," adult-oriented collection of tunes is rightly regarded as "top-knotch solo fiddling for the ages." Now back in the US for three years, Smith teaches Suzuki violin/fiddle in Oshkosh, WI and Aurora, IL, and he has a new project, "ThisBigStringBand: The Next Small Thing. . ." due in 2004. He has also found some success on the fiddle contest circuit, taking top prizes in state-level competitions in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Georgia, and Nevada. In 2002 he place fifth at the Appalachian String Band Festival, Clifftop, WV, and most recently he placed fifth in the Adult division at the National Old-Time Fiddlers' Contest in

Weiser, ID (2004). In February 2003 Smith arranged and performed (with ThisBigStringBand guitarist Jim Marks) the period music used for the Chicago Prop Thtr's world premiere production of G.Riley Mills's "Raising Blue," a Civil War drama centered around the story of the Huntley, the world's first submarine warfarer.

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