



Robin and Linda Williams and Their Fine Group

monied twang to a nation thirsty for the sounds of Appalachia. Listen to "Prairie Home Companion" and you'll hear Robin and Linda, whom promoter Mike Meyer calls the radio show's house band. And their most recent CD, 2004's *Deeper Waters*, shines with gems like "Old Plank Road" (with Mary Chapin Carpenter and Sissy Spacek on harmony – *day-amn!*) and "Leaving the Land," made all the more poignant by Iris Dement's anguished harmonies. The vengeful "Just Glad You're Gone" won't get you pumped like the Dixie Chicks' "Earl," but it's still nice and nasty: "You wallow in the shoals where shallow dreams feed hollow souls ... You're a taker, you're a user, you're time I wasted on a loser."

Their best songs sound new but familiar, an itch you might scratch by tracking down other bluegrass groups. After constant touring alongside their group (Jim Watson of the Red Clay Ramblers on string bass and harmony and Jimmy Gaudreau on mandolin and mandola), Robin and Linda are some of the best-known bluegrass practitioners in the country. They perform traditional songs (slightly reworked), but they've also won awards for their own songwriting and had their songs covered by luminaries from Kathy Mattea to Emmylou Harris. Their live performances, say those in the know, bring out the best in a crowd (especially one well-lubricated by some of that there moonshine at Luna); wear your best duds and stand at the ready for a rompin' great time. Robin and Linda Williams and Their Fine Group play at 8 pm on Thursday, March 22, at Luna. \$23.50 adv., \$25 door.

—Suzi Steffen

Jewmongous Strikes Back

Sean Altman: The name takes me way back ... Don't ask why I was watching *Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?* well into my teens; it was a way too traumatic time in my life to revisit. But the fact is I watched that show religiously, buffing up on my ge-

ography and history while listening to the snazzy barbershop quartet stylings of Altman's former group Rockapella. Between Greg Lee's sleuthy detective work and The Chief's heavy-handed guidance, Rockapella would offer a bit of comic relief amidst all that boring learning.

Since Altman's departure from the a capella group nearly 10 years ago, he's nurtured a successful solo career with three solo albums under his belt and a brand new one attributed to his new nom de plume, **Jewmongous**. With tongue in cheek, Altman's touts his new project as being "Taller than

Jesus." On the new record, *Unorthodox*, Altman offers a whimsical new approach to Jewish joke-pop with songs like "Hot Jewish Chicks," "The Porno Made Me Do It" and the rabidly incisive "Jews for Jesus." With his neo-doo-wop vocal inflections illuminating every tune, even his more explicit songs sound completely ridiculous and hilarious. Jews and gentiles alike, everyone can appreciate a good-natured Jewmongous parody. Jewmongous performs at 8 pm Thursday, March 22 at Sam Bond's Garage. 21+ show. \$15.

—Steven Sawada



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