

OLD-TIME FIDDLE CLASSICS

❖ *in the Missouri Valley Style* ❖



Dwight "Red" Lamb, Fiddle



Elvin Campbell, Guitar



Dwight Lamb, 1990s

Dwight Lamb was born in Moorhead, Iowa on May 16, 1934. Dwight's grandfather, Chris Jerup, was a fiddler and accomplished button accordion player who had learned many tunes from his own father, a popular dance and wedding fiddler in Denmark in the 19th century. Dwight's father, Clarence Lamb, was himself a fine old-time fiddler who had absorbed much of the family dance music tradition, and also learned many tunes from the late Casey Jones over Radio KFNF out of Shenandoah, Iowa.

Dwight grew up playing button accordion in the midst of this rich dance-tune tradition, but did not venture into fiddle playing until he met Bob Walters of Tekamah, Nebraska. Dwight had listened to Walters over Radio KMMJ in Grand Island, Nebraska since his early childhood, and already played a number of Bob's tunes on the accordion. Around 1953, Dwight decided to drive down to Tekamah to make Bob's acquaintance. Walters welcomed him, and even got out his fiddle to play a few tunes. Dwight soon became a regular visitor.



Dwight, with a new accordion, 1957

With undeniable bravery, Dwight selected his very favorite tune as his first to learn on fiddle: Comin' Down from Denver. Just a few years later, in 1961, the ambitious young fiddler played at his first contest, in Brownsville, Nebraska. It was there he met Cyril Stinnett, from whom he ultimately learned a good portion of his repertoire.



Dwight, left, listens to Bob Walters fiddle at a session in an Onawa filling station in 1956.



The summer of 1963 found Dwight working at the DX, a local filling station in Onawa, Iowa. His fiddle was a constant companion; he often brought it to work with him, in case there was a little down time between customers. One such afternoon, a car pulled up, and in it were a young man and his family off to visit relatives in Des Moines. With a sharp eye, the customer noticed the fiddle case and talked Dwight into playing a couple of tunes. Dwight obliged, and off went the family on their errand.

A week later, the same dusty car pulled up, with the same young man in it, this time with a guitar case in the back seat, and a little time on his hands. The guitarist, of course, was Elvin Campbell.

The accompaniment on these two LPs is furnished by Elvin, an Onawa native, and late of Hooper, Nebraska. Elvin's grandfather and several of his uncles were respected fiddlers around Onawa, Iowa, from around the turn of the century, and indeed the two "Hiram Allen" tunes played in the area are named for Elvin's grandfather. Elvin was a very good fiddler himself, but found his true niche as a guitar player in the challenging fiddle tradition of his home in the Missouri Valley.

Elvin had an absolute passion for fiddle music, going to great lengths to play with and encourage the many great fiddlers in the area. One oft-repeated story tells of Elvin arriving home from a long-haul trucking assignment, only to get in his car and drive several more hours to Cyril Stinnett's house near Fillmore, Missouri. He woke Cyril—by this time it was nearly three in the morning—to play tunes. It's a mark of Cyril's own love for music that this didn't upset him; he just got out his fiddle, and they played for a couple of hours, then Elvin got in his car and headed home. Presumably Cyril went back to bed.

After that first chance meeting at the filling station, Dwight and Elvin quickly became friends. They made their first appearance together at Weiser, Idaho, the biggest fiddle contest in the US, only two years later, in 1966, finishing in seventh place. The two played together from 1963 until Elvin's passing in 2009.

This CD collects Dwight and Elvin's two LPs, souvenirs of their early years together, on which they recorded some of the best and most popular pieces from the Missouri Valley in the late 1960s, in their own crisp, powerful style.



Dwight Lamb, Lena Hughes & Cyril Stinnett



Elvin Campbell, 1990s



This CD collects two LPs, Old-Time Fiddlin' Left-Handed Style 1 and 2, recorded in 1967 and 1972 by the unstoppable duo of Dwight Lamb and Elvin Campbell. Dwight contributes intricate and fascinating fiddle, and Elvin brings graceful, rock-solid guitar backup. The two longtime friends, both masters of their instruments, power through a passel of the best tunes from Missouri Valley old-time fiddle contests and local dances. This crisp, powerful music is as addictive to listen to as it is to play.

Dwight shows us how it's done...left-handed style!



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from Old-Time Fiddlin'
Left-Handed Style, 1967

1	Purcell's Reel	1:55
2	Centerville	1:51
3	Pacific Slope	1:55
4	Canary Waltz	2:49
5	Fox Chase	2:13
6	Dubuque's Hornpipe	1:43
7	Bennett's Reel	1:48
8	Adrian's Hornpipe	1:46
9	Thunderbolt Hornpipe	1:57
10	Old Parnell	2:51
11	Johnny Bring the Jug Around the Hill	1:55
12	Comin' Down from Denver	1:54
13	Granny Will Your Dog Bite	1:54
14	Jack Danielson's Reel	1:55
15	Pageant	1:48
16	Dusty Miller	1:39

from Old-Time Fiddlin' 2
Left-Handed Style, 1972

17	Gray Eagle	2:30
18	Burt County Breakdown	2:10
19	Dad's Waltz	2:58
20	Wart on the Pumphandle	2:00
21	Bill Powell's Waltz	3:52
22	Five Miles Out of Town	1:52
23	Rye Straw	1:42
24	Lazy Kate	1:58
25	Tennessee Wagner	1:50
26	Trombone Rag	3:09
27	Casey's Hornpipe	1:50
28	Waltz in G	3:07
29	Old Ladies Pickin' Chickens	1:58
30	Katy Hill	1:52
31	Billy in the Lowground	1:51
32	Natchez Under the Hill	1:54
33	Steamboat Round the Bend	1:54
34	Cowboy Waltz	2:59

Digital transfer from the original LPs: Charlie Walden

Design: Rocky Skarin with reformatting by David Cavins

Liner notes: Dwight & Carmen Lamb with additions by Amber Gaddy

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