

**Christopher Hedge** *The Atrocious Saint* [That's That Productions TTCD 12272 (2008)] *The Atrocious Saint* consists of music drawn from a soundtrack that multi-instrumentalist Christopher Hedge was commissioned to produce for a PBS production, *Andrew Jackson: Good, Evil, and the Presidency*. Jackson, the seventh President of the United States, was a controversial figure who led the country during a formative and tumultuous period. Hedge succeeds in evoking the diverse ethnicities and moods that pervaded the country at that time by recruiting an impressive roster of musicians, including mandolinist David Grisman (with and without his Bluegrass Experience), Native American flute player R. Carlos Nakai, Congolese percussionist Titos Sompa, and Irish fiddler Joe Weed. The all-instrumental program succeeds in capturing a variety of moods that characterized the nation at the time juxtaposing a poignant duet between Nakai and Sompa ("Territory") against the Bluegrass Experience's romp through "The Eighth of January" and Weed's reels, such as "Go to the Devil & Shake Yourself." The interesting juxtaposition of top-flight musicians and the poignancy of the material and performances make this far more captivating listening than most soundtrack fare. (MP)

