



Peter Ostroushko (Mandolin and Fiddle) performs in a duo, usually with **Arkadiy Yushin** (Guitar), or with his group, **The Heartland Band**

Peter Ostroushko has come to be regarded as one of the finest mandolin and fiddle players in acoustic music. His tours have taken him to the stages of clubs, performing arts centers, music festivals and theatres across North America and Europe, and he has earned an international reputation as a versatile and dazzling master of instrumentation and composition.

His recording contributions stand favorably alongside great Nashville session men of his generation. He's played with Jethro Burns, Emmylou Harris, Willie Nelson, Chet Atkins, Johnny Gimble, but his hometown Minneapolis' music scene has provided a fabulous variety of musical styles in which Peter remains unequalled: folk (Greg Brown, John Hartford, Taj Mahal, Robin & Linda Williams), bluegrass (Norman and Nancy Blake, Tim O'Brien and Hot Rize), jazz, classical, and even rock: Peter's first recording session was an uncredited mandolin set on Bob Dylan's *Blood on the Tracks*, and his work is featured on Robin Holcomb's 1992 release *Rockabye* (Elektra).

Where Peter is at his most passionate is when Peter plays Ostroushko - a rich ethnic mix at the heart of which is his Ukrainian heritage. His term for his gumbo of musical styles is "slüz düz," a phrase borrowed from his mother meaning, roughly, "over the edge" or "off his rocker." Indeed, Peter is something of a first-generation hero in the Ukrainian community of North America. To his surprise, one town even held a parade in his honor!

Not surprisingly, Peter's resume is dizzying in size and scope. He's played lead ukelele with the Minnesota Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Sir Neville Mariner. He's barked like a dog on The David Lettermen Show. He's appeared on Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood (whose other rare musical guests have included Wynton Marsalis and Yo-Yo Ma). He's composed and performed scores for a number of theatrical productions including The Children's Theater in Minneapolis (with whom he traveled to Edinburgh's famed Fringe Festival), the ACT Theatre, and the public television special airing in 1993, The Dakota Conflict. He's appeared on radio and television music shows including Mountain Stage, Good Evening, Prairie Home Companion, Nashville Network, Lonesome Pine Special and Austin City Limits.

Peter Ostroushko

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Coming Down from Red Lodge, Peter's new studio recording, features a blend of Celtic, classical and American Roots music, especially composed by the fiddle and mandolin virtuoso for five consecutive guest appearances on "A Prairie Home Companion" radio show on NPR. He has recorded on over 100 other records.



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