



The Most Popular Guitar CHET ATKINS



Original Liner Notes

Popularity polls are peculiar things. In 1948, they proved that Thomas E. Dewey was the people's choice for President of the United States. Curiously, the one opinion sampling that called the shots correctly was the so-called "popcorn poll" in a New Jersey drive-in theater. The refreshment-stand proprietor, finding himself overstocked with popcorn, thought he might whip up some interest in the stuff by labeling the bags "Dewey" or "Truman"-customer's choice. One week and many pounds of popcorn later he concluded that Truman would take the election.

What does it prove? Simply that the surest way to discover who's ahead in the popularity sweepstakes is to put the candidates on a pays-yer-money-takes-yer-choice basis. Which brings us to Chet Atkins (and about time, too).

Chet has been elected The World's Most Popular Guitar. The polling took place in jukeboxes and record stores across the country. The voters were dancers and dreamers, eggheads and tenderfoots, hipsters and homebodies. The ballots were the multi-million Atkins records sold in his dozen years with RCA Victor.

This is Chet's thirteenth album and it goes a long way in

explaining the durable Atkins magic. In the background there's a string-drenched orchestra, a warm vocal group and romance-sized arrangements. In the foreground The World's Most Popular Guitar coaxes new beauty from favorites of two continents-tender themes culled from such varied sources as the classics, the cinema and the cradle.

This very diversity accounts in part for Chet's wide-flung success. The tall, spare Tennessean first came to national notice a decade back when he swept the country-music-scene on radio's Grand Ole Opry. His specialty then as now was a hand-is-faster-than-the-ere technique warmly wrapped in flawless taste.

Since then, however, Chet has grown into successively larger frameworks. In recent albums, he's delved into the classics, mastered the intricacies of Spanish guitar, and added new luster to countless popular songs. He's appeared as soloist with the Atlanta Symphony; he's joined the all-star jazz line-up at Newport.

Yet, withal, the basic Atkins hallmarks never change: incredible technique, impeccable style-just as you will hear in THE MOST POPULAR GUITAR.

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- 1 Rock A Bye Baby
- 2 Vanessa
- 3 Intermezzo
- 4 Hi Lilli Hi Lo
- 5 East of the Sun
- 6 Goin' Home
- 7 It Ain't Necessary So
- 8 My Dear Little Sweetheart
- 9 Stay As Sweet As You Are
- 10 Monte Carlo Melody
- 11 When The Day Is Done
- 12 My Prayer

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Recorded in Nashville, Tennessee Engineer – Bill Porter



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