



CREATIVE NATION MUSIC

Sample reviews of Eric Hofbauer's *American Vanity* (CNM 003), released in 2004.

Best Debuts of 2004 list

—**AllAboutJazz-New York**

He can play lightning fast phrases or slow blues, sentimental melodies or dissonant flurries, and he's certainly a brilliant player. Fans of guitar forays will be especially amazed by what he does on several pieces...consistent musical brilliance.

—**Ron Wynn, Nashville City Paper**

...this is a muscular and audacious display of technical virtuosity...he's got my attention.

—**Dan McClenaghan, AllAboutJazz.com**

His approach is stately as classical music but loaded with the nose-thumbing attitude of American music (found also in Thelonious Monk, Charles Ives and Lightnin' Hopkins).

—**Mark Keresman, JazzReview.com**

Using hefty fingerstyle chops on acoustic guitar, he weaves bebop phrases, discrete bass lines, prepared guitar, dissonance, and fragmented improvisation into a cool and unique personal statement...Hofbauer sustains the personality of each arrangement while re-examining its elements. [His] original pieces are equally interesting, angular and thorny...

—**Gary Lee Joyner, Acoustic Guitar**

That the album not only accomplishes the grafting of image to tone, but swings in the process is simply great...Hofbauer is a first-rate guitarist in the spirit mold, able to deftly switch gears in the middle of passages and play against himself amazingly...The guy's got a sense of humor to go with his skepticism and the record wins for it.

—**Scott Woods, Rambles.net**

...rich with the sound of a player discovering the depth of his musical voice as well as the possibilities of the stringed instrument he employs for artistic expression.

—**Walter Tunis, Lexington Herald-Leader**

Not sounding like jazz guitar is probably *American Vanity*'s biggest accomplishment.

—**Syracuse New Times**

The program is an elegantly varied collection of original improvisations and compositions along with arrangements of other composers' work...*American Vanity* is a very impressive effort from a major young talent.

—**Rick Anderson, All Music Guide**