

Buddy Miller smiles by quarters, not even halves, his lips struggling to keep secret what his eyes constantly betray, dancing, sparkling: That he is delighted.

Delighted by very nearly everything, even by the carefully wrought solutions to vexing problems.

For years Buddy stood in the shadows, a succession of tattered baseball caps concealing his grizzled face. He favors a porkpie hat these days, not consciously an homage to John Hartford (though it fits), and enters his sixth decade no longer doubting where the spotlight should fall.

"You'll be judged by the company you keep," moms say, and maybe something of those words lingers in the air when they've left the room. Know Buddy, then, by the company he has kept, for he has been at the fulcrum of much of the best music to emerge from Nashville (and well beyond) since finally he and his wife, Julie, moved there in 1993, playing indispensable roles with Shawn Colvin (back in New York, before), Emmylou Harris, Lucinda Williams, Steve Earle, Patty Griffin, and Robert Plant. Producing or co-produced stunning albums with Jimmie Dale Gilmore, the Carolina Chocolate Drops, Solomon Burke, Patty Griffin, Allison Moorer, and, yes, Robert Plant's Band of Joy. Writing and co-writing songs covered by artists as disparate as the Dixie Chicks, Hank III, and Shemekia Copeland.

Not to mention his own recording career, with and without Julie. And the new show he and longtime friend, former roommate, and collaborator Jim Lauderdale have launched on SiriusXM Radio, just so they can talk about and play the music they love. Which, naturally,

has evolved into an album.

Here, then, are Buddy Miller's recorded highlights, a selective and annotated discography...

2012

Producer, *All Fall Down*, by Shawn Colvin

Producer, *Leaving Eden*, by the Carolina Chocolate Drops (Nonesuch)

2011

The Majestic Silver Strings (New West), an avant-country collaboration with guitarists Bill Frisell and Marc Ribot, featuring guest vocalists Lee Ann Womack, Chocolate Genius, and Patty Griffin.

2010

Co-producer/principal musician, *Band of Joy*, the name taken from Robert Plant's first band, the ensemble featuring Plant along with Buddy and Patty Griffin, an outgrowth of Buddy's work as a member of the *Raising Sand* touring band. Grammy nomination for best Americana album.

Producer, *Downtown Church* (ATO), by Patty Griffin, a joyous, exquisite collection of classic gospel, and one randy Big Mama Thornton cover. Grammy award, best traditional gospel album.

Contributes to releases by Elvis Costello, Carrie Rodriguez, and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band.

2009

Written In Chalk (New West), the second album-length collaboration with Julie, mostly her songs and his arrangements, with covers of Mel Tillis and Leon Payne, and a cameo from Robert Plant. Americana Music Association Album of the Year.

Contributes to John Fogerty's *The Blue Ridge Rangers: Rides Again*.

2008

Producer, *Mockingbird*, by Allison Moorer, perhaps her most assured album.

Named Artist of the Decade by *No Depression* magazine in its 75th and final issue.

2006

Producer, *Nashville*, by Solomon Burke, in which one of the greatest soul singers of all time took up residence in Buddy's living room and held forth, surrounded by singers like Emmylou Harris, Patty Griffin, and Dolly Parton.

2004

Universal United House of Prayer (New West), inaugurating his collaborations with the McCrary Sisters, a southern gospel triumph with a Dylan twist. Americana Music Association Album of the Year.

2002

Midnight and Lonesome (HighTone), honky-tonk spanning the Everly Brothers and Percy Mayfield, but mostly celebrating Julie Miller's songwriting.

2001

Buddy and Julie Miller (HighTone), the first formal, album-length collaboration, including Dylan's "Wallflower" and their own (not the Standells') "Dirty Water." Americana Music Association Album of the Year.

2000

Co-producer, *One Endless Night* (Rounder), by Jimmie Dale Gilmore, a

reminder that Buddy has spent some years in Texas, and knows his way around a honky-tonk.

1999

Cruel Moon (HighTone), including the original of Lee Ann Womack's hit, "Does My Ring Burn Your Finger?," closing with a song from Pop Staples.

Broken Things (HighTone), Julie Miller's second secular release, "made by Buddy and Julie Miller at Dogtown Studios."

1998

Producer, *Spyboy*, by Emmylou Harris, the recorded culmination of Buddy's eight-year role as Emmylou's bandleader.

1997

Poison Love (HighTone), his creative breakthrough, the album on which it is clear Buddy Miller must be heard.

Blue Pony (HighTone), Julie Miller's first secular album, produced by Buddy and Julie Miller, with guest appearances by Emmylou Harris, Steve Earle, and Bill Mallonee.

1996

Invisible Girl (Street Level), Julie's fourth and final overtly Contemporary Christian release. Produced by Buddy and Julie Miller.

1995

Your Love and Other Lies (HighTone), the emergence of a great honky tonk singer, and the re-emergence of a powerful songwriting duo. Don't ask about the record he made before this one.

1993

Orphans and Angels (Myrrh), Julie Miller's third album, again

produced by Buddy, Julie, and Don Posthuma.

1991

He Walks Through Walls (Word), Julie Miller's second album, Buddy and Julie share production credits with Don Posthuma.

1990

Meet Julie Miller (Myrrh/Word), the beginning of Julie's career in contemporary gospel. The first track is titled "Dogtown," and Buddy Miller is credited as "associate producer."