

APRIL VERCH

“A marvel to behold!” – *Sing Out!*

“Playful and flirtatious, whimsical and wry...a transcendent level of musicianship where hard-earned technique can be safely abandoned.” – *Toronto Star*

Experiencing an April Verch show is like a hopping a supersonic freight train from an old lumber camp in Northern Ontario, across the wide open prairie, through the Appalachians, down the Mississippi to the Louisiana Bayou, across the sea to Brazil, France, the Scottish Highlands and back, with stops at Carnegie Hall and church thrown in for good measure. An April Verch concert is equal parts invigorating, surprising, heartbreaking, heartwarming, haunting, charming, thrilling, foot-stomping, faith-restoring, and smile-inducing – all in all, utterly unforgettable. It’s a musical journey you do not want to miss, one that will have you entranced from start to finish, and ultimately not wanting to get off that train you hopped on just two hours earlier.

A performer since early childhood, 27 year-old April Verch was a seasoned entertainer by the time she finished high school, winning stepdancing and fiddle contests, appearing across her native Canada at concerts, as an invited guest at fiddle contests and as a teacher at fiddle camps, always integrating dance and fiddling into a seamless, dynamic whole. Following a year of intensive study at Boston’s Berklee School of Music, she launched her professional career by winning Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Champion and Canadian Open Fiddle Champion titles (the first and only woman to win both).

But April is not just a world-class fiddler, she is also a world-class dancer, and a singer whose voice has been hailed as “absolutely captivating” by the *Toronto Star*. Since signing with Rounder in 2000, she has toured tirelessly, winning over audiences not only with her sheer technical ability, but also with her charm, humor and boundless energy on stage. She crosses genres easily from Bluegrass to Brazilian to Celtic, from a jaunty Canadian folksong to a poignant contemporary ballad, and the audience is with her all the way.

Her two Rounder releases have garnered considerable praise from critics and peers alike: the fittingly titled *Verchusosity* (2001), which earned a JUNO (Canada’s Grammy) award nomination; and *From Where I Stand* (2003), which documented not only her growing mastery of a broad range of musical styles, but also her debut as a vocalist. Her upcoming CD, *Take Me Back*, produced by roots music master Dirk Powell, will build on the strengths of *From Where I Stand*, emphasizing songs and arrangements with broad, yet roots-leaning appeal. On a half dozen songs by Americana favorites Buddy Miller, Julie Miller and Claire Lynch, April will bring a new dimension to her work, delivering songs of intense emotion with an expressive vocal depth that belies not only the short time that’s passed since she began singing, but also her age.

April is an utterly unique performer, whose high-energy brand of musicianship inevitably brings audiences to their feet, whether at a folk festival in Finland, a concert hall like the Kennedy Center, a bluegrass festival in Oklahoma, or a Celtic festival in California. An experienced fiddle teacher (She teaches at several prestigious fiddle camps, including Mark O’Connor’s), April also offers fiddle and dance workshops and master classes.