

# Performing Songwriter

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MARCH 2006 *Be Heard.*

## Scott Miller & The Commonwealth *Citation*

*Citation* is Scott Miller and the Commonwealth's third outing on Sugar Hill, following *Thus Always To Tyrants* and *Upside/Downside*, both of which were met with tremendous critical acclaim. Miller, who in a previous life was frontman for renowned Knoxville rockers the V-Roys, makes his infectious roots-rock compositions sound almost effortless on *Citation*. One track seems to roll easily into the next, and the combined result is a very cohesive and upbeat record produced by none other than Jim Dickinson (the Replacements, Big Star, Ry Cooder).

Combining infectious riffs, clever lyrics and an overall sense of purpose, Miller's chops shine through in every area. When he wants to, Miller can be astoundingly poetic, as on the album's closer, "Long Goodnight," written in the bathroom at Memphis Sound Studios. This one could give any Dylan song a run for its money: "This is a mule train world/ Pulling you forward as soon as you're born. This is a train ride start/ You know where it's ending before you depart." All in all, an engaging record by a well-rounded artist, perhaps slightly reminiscent of Nick Lowe in earlier years. – Jeff Touzou

