



## Flatt & Scruggs

### *Best of the Flatt & Scruggs TV Show, Volumes One and Two*

Although guitarist Lester Flatt and banjo picker Earl Scruggs were already popular on the folk fest circuit, it's a safe guess that most Americans probably received their first exposure to duo's music in 1962, when their theme song for The Beverly Hillbillies became the first mega-selling bluegrass record. But by that time, the Bill Monroe alumni and their band the Foggy Mountain Boys were already a fixture in the South, due in no small part to their weekly half-hour, Nashville-originated TV program, Flatt & Scruggs Grand Ole Opry. Until recently, it was presumed that no episodes of the show had survived, but tapes recently turned up and these four grainy black-and-white programs—the first in an ongoing series—are a treasure trove of classic bluegrass. Wicked instrumental breakdowns, close gospel harmony, corny comedy bits and straight-faced plugs for sponsor Martha White Mills' floury products may all seem pretty lo-fi and low-brow in the era of CMT and 5.1 surround sound, but as honest Americana, it's a true find.

Special features: None.

—Jeff Tamarkin