

- CD REVIEW -

## TALLGRASS EXPRESS STRING BAND

*Clean Curve Of Hill Against Sky*

Subtitled "Songs Of The Kansas Flint Hills," this wonderful Western Music release features all-acoustic renderings with a Bluegrass/Folk feel and very rich harmony work.

At the time of the release (back a little ways but it's just catching up to us) the group consisted of Annie Wilson (vocals & guitar); Charlie Laughridge (vocals, fiddle, mandolin, harmonica & concertina); Loren Ratzloff (vocals, banjo, mandolin & dobro) and Carl Reed (vocals, bass, guitar).

This CD was the band's first all-original music effort and features a booklet that is particularly striking in layout, photography and annotation. When budget allows, this is the ideal way to present yourself as an artist...especially as an introduction! The sparkling, top notch performances match it. Now here's a word about lead vocalist Annie Wilson's songwriting. Material that describes the rocks, rills and hills of a place can easily turn pedantic or clumsy. Not so here! Wilson adroitly marries the lyrical with the physical and sends them off to honeymoon in the historical. She should conduct workshops! Superior throughout. You won't regret getting it. 16 tracks total.

CD: \$14.99 plus \$3.46 s/h through [www.cdbaby.com/cd/tesb](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/tesb) with downloads \$9.99 for the album or \$.89 ea for individual songs. — by Rick Huff

