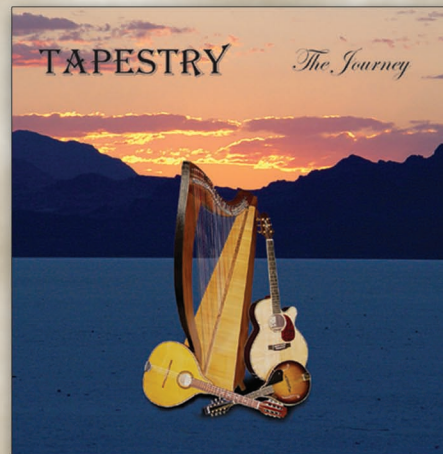


# TAPESTRY

## *The Journey*



#133 December 2007/January 2008

## Linen Shorts

**Josh Ritter** *The Historical Conquests of Josh Ritter* (Victor/Sony 88691 12294) (2007) Ritter's follow-up to *The Animal Years* is more spontaneous and emotional than its predecessor. You'll have to listen even more intently to take in his celebrated songwriting, because some of the songs move fast, words almost tripping over each other. Fortunately, lyrics are supplied in the liner notes. But it's the music that moves to the forefront in this effort. The first three tracks, "To the Dogs or Whoever," "Mind's Eye," and "Right Moves," have a layered Beatles quality that invite multiple playbacks. *The Historical Conquests of Josh Ritter* will undoubtedly be all over triple-A radio, cementing Ritter's status in contemporary music. (CM)

**Dave Cousins** *The Boy in the Sailor Suit* (Windward Media WMD 2040) (2007) Dave Cousins, chief mastermind behind the progressive folk-rock group the Strawbs, delivers a new and exceptional 10-track solo album with the help of guitarist Miller Anderson, bass player Chas Cronk, drummer Chris Hunt, and fiddler Ian Cutler. The songs, sounding very much like outtakes from a new Strawbs album (Cousins is the chief songwriter and singer in that band), range from straightforward, punchy rockers like "Never Take Sweets From a Stranger" and "Mother I Ack" to some lovely wispy ballads, such as "Mellow Moon" and "Bringing in the Harvest." Cousins still has a deft touch when it comes to writing unforgettable melodies, and his voice is still warmly passionate and engaging. (JLM)

**Runrig** *Everything You See* (Rage Ridge 2007) A full-on blast of Scots trad-rock is what Runrig delivers with this latest recording, a vigorous collection of original music that's grounded as much in the heartbeat of the Highlands as it is in the crash of waves off Scotland's rocky coastline. Though there have



Josh Ritter - tripping over fast moves

been personnel changes, Runrig has been together for more than 30 years now, and the transition to current lead singer Bruce Gutter from Nerys Scotia has been well completed, giving the music a different dimension of sound. Calum and Rory MacDonald, founders of the band, wrote all the tracks here, and most of the recording itself was done on the Black Isle in Scotland. It's a shot at bracing contemporary Scots music and a high-energy head collaborator, as well. Julie Fowlis and Duncan

Chisholm are among the guests, but the focus remains on the powerful interaction among members of the band. Standout tracks include "Club of the Ash," "An Dealachadh," and "This Day." (KD)

**The Chad Mitchell Trio** *Collection* (Thrane Sarason 302 066 813) (2007) Though not as commercially successful as the Kingston Trio or Peter, Paul and Mary, the Chad Mitchell Trio played a pivotal role in establishing the collegiate

folk sound of the early 1960s. With tracks from the three albums (*Lighter Days on Campus*, *At the Ritten End*, and *Blowin' in the Wind* [original title: *In Action*]) reissued for Harry Belafonte's production company and leased to Records, the 17-track *Chad Mitchell Trio Collection* spotlights vocal harmonies, polka-rooted arrangements to early covers of Dylan ("Blowin'"), Tom Paxton ("Tom Paxton"), embryonic folk tunes including "Greatest of the I Had," and "The Road to Nowhere." (SH)

**Tapestry** *The Journey* (Viewpoint Productions 2007) Tapestry is the husband-wife duo of Denise and Michael Grupp-Verbon. They play harp (Denise) and guitar, mandolin, bouzouki, and percussion (Michael) in lovely acoustic arrangements that are calming and restful but never deteriorate into sonic pablum. The 11 cuts include three original tunes and some unexpected adaptations of pop tunes, including Sting's "Fields of Gold" and "Riders on the Storm," in addition to the usual trad tunes "Wild Mountain Thyme" and "The Ash Grove." All in all, a striking and surprising mix that hits all the right notes. (SH)

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[www.tapestryduo.com](http://www.tapestryduo.com)

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