

Reviews

Linen Shorts

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+ THE BLADE: TOLEDO, OHIO ■ SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2007

THE JOURNEY Tapestry (Viewpoint Productions)

With their second release of instrumental gems, Toledo-area musicians Denise and Michael Grupp-Verbon show that they are quite capable of matching talents with some of the more well-known performers in the New Age and folk genres. With more than 52 minutes of gorgeous and laid-back, often very intricate melodies, they are worth a listen by fans of light acoustic fare.

This time around they offer three original tunes, four traditional folk/Celtic numbers, and four pop songs. Their arrangements of previously recorded works, such as Sting's "Fields Of Gold," are bright and interesting. It's sometimes uncanny just how much depth they can wring out of the marriage of just two instruments, with Denise on the harp and Michael on 6 and 12-string guitars and percussion.

The duo has performed at many area events, and its CDs are available at the Web site www.queenofharps.com and at local stores.

— KEN ROSENBAUM

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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TAPESTRY: THE JOURNEY.

Michael Grupp-Verbon, guitar; Denise Grupp-Verbon, harp. Viewpoint Productions/www.queenofharps.com, 2007, \$15.

Tapestry's second recording features Celtic, folk, and popular music. This time, the duo blends the timbres of a Timothy lever harp with acoustic Takamine guitars, percussion, mandolin, and bouzouki. Twelve songs include Sting's "Fields of Gold," Green Day's "Good Riddance (The Time of Your Life)," The Doors' "Riders on the Storm," Michael's own composition "The Journey" using altered tuning, and a fusion of Turlough O'Carolan's "Carolan's Dream" with Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven." Certainly a combination of sounds and music to check out. A.Y.