

Reviews

THE BLADE: TOLEDO, OHIO ■ SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2005

BRIEFLY NOTED

VARIATIONS, Tapestry (Viewpoint Productions) A lovely mix of mostly familiar pop and Celtic tunes gets sparkling performances by two Toledo-area musicians, Denise Grupp-Verbon on Celtic harp and Michael Grupp-Verbon on 6 and 12-string acoustic guitars, on their 12-song debut album. They have been showcasing their considerable talents at area events. Now fans of light, intricate melodies can enjoy Tapestry at home. Available at www.queenofharps.com. *K.R.*

American String Teacher | November 2006

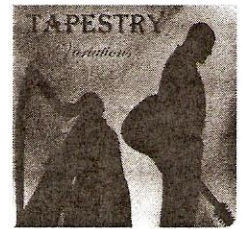
VARIATIONS. Michael Grupp-Verbon, guitar, and Denise Grupp-Verbon, harp. Viewpoint Productions, 2005, \$15. Available from www.queenofharps.com. Tapestry, this guitar-harp duo, has put together a refreshing collection of twelve songs, including some well-known tunes such as *Simple Gifts*, *Londonderry Air*, *Scarborough Fair*, and the Beatles' *Let It Be*. The Dusty Strings lever harp and Takamine acoustic guitars blend to create a soothing yet energetic mix

of timbres and more colorful harmonies shared between the instruments. Tapestry's version of Van Morrison's *Moondance* swings along with a carefree ease. Quite helpful is a listing of the publishers of the tunes used for improvisation, including widely available harp arrangements by Sylvia Woods, Kim Robertson, and Deborah Friou. An enjoyable addition to one's listening library and a good resource for any aspiring guitar-harp duos. A.Y.

www.folkharpociety.org Issue No. 131 Spring/Summer 2006

Tapestry

Denise Grupp-Verbon
Michael Grupp-Verbon
review by Reba Lunsford



Tapestry's *Variations* is a delightful blend of traditional and contemporary offerings. It's one of those recordings that

grabbed my attention from the first song. I especially enjoyed the pauses in the opening of *Simple Gifts*, anticipating when she would be off and running with the familiar melody.

Denise Grupp-Verbon's harp sings the melodies beautifully, while the accompaniment supports rather than dominates. Michael Grupp-Verbon's guitar provides interesting counterpoint and harmonic richness. He really shines and shows off his stuff on their rendition of *Let It Be*.

Two of my favorite cuts are *Moondance* and *100 Years*. Sometimes, instrumental versions of songs that are sung are lacking in impact and emotion. However, her mastery of syncopation and rhythm made these delightful and captured the essence of the moods intended. I have to confess that I play these two,

and especially *Moondance*, over and over. I'm surprised the folks at work haven't started yelling at me yet!

Variations will certainly be at the top of my personal play list for some time to come and will be one of those CDs that I recommend to others.