

Pete Seeger & Lorre Wyatt

Pete Seeger & Lorre Wyatt
A MORE PERFECT UNION

Appleseed Recordings

****1/2

93-year-old Seeger (banjo, 12-string guitar, vocals) and, quarter of a century younger, Wyatt (guitar, vocals) have sustained a friendship for over forty years. Late last century Lorre suffered a stroke that sidelined him, musically speaking, for the ensuing decade and a half. A few years ago, sufficiently recovered and once again able to hold and play an instrument and sing, he suggested to Seeger they complete the songs they had worked on years earlier. A MORE PERFECT UNION is the result of that collaboration and finds their names appended, as collaborators, to fifteen songs; the exception being Wyatt's 1983 composition "Somos el Barco (We Are The Boat)." In addition to the duo, the melodic opening selection "God's Counting On Me...God's Counting On You" features vocal contributions from Bruce Springsteen and The Rivertown Kids. Those Kids featured prominently on Seeger's previous outing, the Grammy winning Best Musical Album For Children TOMORROW'S CHILDREN (2010). The lyric focuses on environmental issues, allied in particular to the voracious greed of corporations and mentions the BP oil spill and more. Equally memorable and a future audience sing-along is the title song on which Tom Morello guests. Bookending the foregoing song are the Hurricane Katrina inspired "Memories Out Of Mud" and "This Old Man Revisited." Dar Williams shares the vocal with Lorre on the former, and with Pete and Steve Earle on the sabre rattling, satirical latter. With the principle players being up there in years, "Old Apples" is a sly double entendre, and reference to aging also graces the melancholic "Fields Of Harmony." "Howling For Our Supper" is a humour-laden commentary on the duo's writing efforts by Pete's cats and dog. Wyatt, an original crew member on the Hudson River sloop "Clearwater," is joined by Emmylou Harris on the aforementioned "Somos el Barco." Despairing over the pollution of his beloved Hudson River, Seeger in 1966 proposed the construction of the sloop Clearwater and it was launched in 1969. The pair reprise their "Wonderful Friends" which first appeared on Pete's Grammy winning AT 89 (2008). The duo is joined by a six-piece (mixed sex) choir plus Sara Milonovich's violin and Pete's banjo on album closer "Bountiful River." This ten-minute composition doubles as a love song and, considering Pete's Clearwater connection, a eulogy to the Hudson River which, forty years on, is cleaner than it once was.

Arthur Wood

www.peteseegermusic.com

