



The Wayfaring Strangers **"The Shifting Sands Of Time"** Rounder Records

The line-up of this septet includes one of the former voices of The Story, Jennifer Kimball, and the banjo picking genius, Tony Trischka. While interviewing Lucy Kaplansky in late December 2001, she revealed that the spark that gave birth to The Wayfaring Strangers was ignited over fifteen years ago when she sang the traditional song "Wayfaring Stranger" with Strangers leader, Matt Glaser. When he's not a Wayfaring Stranger, Glaser is Chair of the Music String Department at Boston's prestigious Berklee College, a post he initiated and has held for more than two decades. Lucy reprises "Wayfaring Stranger" as the closing selection, adds her voice to "High On A Mountain," shares the lead vocal with Jennifer Kimball on "Memories Of You" and harmonises with her on "Strange Bird." Ry Kavanaugh takes the lead vocal on the latter cut. In fact the disc features a number of *guest* vocalists of both genders. Veteran Ralph Stanley performs "Man Of Constant Sorrow," while the marginally younger Tim O'Brien airs "I'm Blue, I'm Lonesome Too." Laurie Lewis performs "Cry, Cry, Darling," and rising bluegrass star Rhonda Vincent tackles "Rank Stranger" a song first made famous by the Stanley Brothers. A Berklee alumni, and former Glaser pupil, Tracy Bonham provides the vocal for the traditional "Working On A Building." Glaser's vision of The Wayfaring Strangers sound is explained in his liner notes as a mix of *"jazz, bluegrass, old-time country, folk, klezmer and more...."* At first hearing the end result comes across as somewhat eclectic, but given your studied and undivided attention, it substantially rewards the investment.

Folkwax Rating 6 out of 10

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