

# Performing Songwriter

*Be Heard.*

DIY

TOP 12 DIY PICKS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

*In support of the independent spirit of songwriters who have released a CD without the backing of a label.*

[ TOP 12 DO-IT-YOURSELF PICKS by: Mare Wakefield and Rick Petreycik ]



## Chris and Thomas

*Vista Street Sessions*

Produced by Chris & Thomas

The debut release from Chris and Thomas showcases vocal harmonies on top of acoustic guitar, mandolin and banjo; think early Simon and Garfunkel in cowboy boots. Melodic lines on the instruments nicely make way for vocal lines.

Outstanding tracks include "Land of Sea," in which listeners journey through ancient geological history. "*Lean and thirsty coyote ... you seem to know the mystery from the time when all this land was sea.*" Two acoustic guitars provide the only accompaniment, weaving melodies around the lyrics.

"Betting on the Moon" is another highpoint, with lyrics featuring the unlikely combination of nostalgia and space. "*As the new world opens, the beauty of the old things will disappear in archives,*" sing Chris and Thomas, voices intertwined over guitar and mandolin.

The combination of unconventional lyrics, expert harmonies and traditional instruments works well throughout the album, and Chris and Thomas emerge as artists to keep your eye on. —MW

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