



JOE FALLETTA

Joe Falletta has been singing and playing banjo and guitar, and enjoying a wide range of music since first discovering the banjo in the mid 1960s. Since then, his musical tastes have expanded to where he enjoys listening to and playing anything on the five-string banjo: old time clawhammer and traditional bluegrass, 60s folk, rock, and jazz, even classic banjo. A reporter

for small community newspapers and a free-lance writer since 1975, he's written reviews and features for *Bluegrass Now* for some 10 years.



1. Grass Roots: The Best of The Newgrass Revival

The Newgrass Revival, Capitol-EMI Records, 7243-8-63425-2-2

A wonderful two-CD compilation from the band that defined the Newgrass sound. Both incarnations of this groundbreaking band are here with plenty of their inspired hits, 35 cuts in all, including nine bonus tracks. This collection is an excellent tribute and a fine way to experience a band that was years ahead of its time and whose personnel still garner respect and adulation.

2. The Brothers Barton: Originals

The Brothers Barton, Crazy Vaders Records, KV 0001

A real find, two very talented brothers from the Bakersfield area astound the mind with their creativity and musicianship. Joined by no less than the legendary Richard Greene, this is one CD not to be missed. Loren and Paul have a real promising musical future ahead of them.

3. Hymns & Prayer Songs

Buddy Greene, Rufus Music Co, RMCD195313

Long one of my favorites for his inspired gospel music and hot work on harmonica, not to mention his breathtaking Christmas favorite, "Mary, Did You Know?" Buddy puts together a wonderful collection of gospel favorites and originals, including his own very moving music set to John Donne's poem "A Hymn To God, The Father," and his equally lovely fingerstyle guitar arrangement of Martin Luther's "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."

4. Journey

Gail Wade, Flying Horse Music, Self-Produced

A brilliant effort from a very talented lady. Swing, folk, country...covers and originals, Gail does it all and very well. Backed by equally inspired talent, including Peggy Ann Harvey who plays everything from fiddles to saxes, flute, and harmonica, this is a first rate CD, beginning to end.

#4 of Top Five Picks in 2006