

The Moment the Apple Falls Review **by Steve Ross-Elliott of** **acousticguitarworkshop.com 2003**

This new CD is pure fingerstyle magic from beginning to end. The tunes are self-penned in a range of exotic and unusual tunings such as AGCGCD, BF#EF#BE and AADGAD. In fact there are only two pieces in standard tuning. Compositional imagination, technical virtuosity and musicianship of the highest order ooze from every bar.

Yoder's touch and tone, whether playing loud or soft, never fail to inspire immaculate evidence of a guitarist at the very top of his game.

In the past I have compared Tom Yoder to the likes of Bensusan, Hedges and Kottke. In a way this does him a disservice. Tom is developing a rich and distinctive sound of his own which is matched by original and inventive ways of writing for the acoustic guitar.

"O'Coughlin's Reel" is a great example. This is a beautiful and playful melody played in DADGAD tuning. The main exposition is reminiscent of an Irish fiddle tune. The speed and yet composure of his pull-offs and hammer-ons is bewitching. And then suddenly, quite unexpectedly the tune veers towards a baroque-sounding motif and some almost Arabic figures before returning to the original celtic flavours.

Another superb example of his innovative approach is "Shade Mountain Rag". You wouldn't have thought there was much more to offer in the genre of ragtime guitar, and yet with this rag Yoder somehow transcends the form and gives us an exhilarating ragtime that is fresh and new. And by the way it's a cracking tune. I believe there is some tab kicking around for this, but believe me even the most advanced players will have some trouble decoding this one.

There are a host of delights to savour and enjoy on "The Moment The Apple Falls". I commend it to you highly.

