

## Press Review: The Wanted by AltCountryForum



Make no mistake. This review is not about the Irish boy band The Wanted. The band that I'm talking about, with the same name, is from Toronto. The style of the quintet is strongly influenced by The Carter Family and jug band Americana music from the twenties and thirties. The Wanted writes songs in this style in country, rockabilly, blues and bluegrass genres. On their self-titled album we find nine original songs and five covers from the repertoire of, among others, Peter Rowan, Elvis Costello and The Carter Family- artists of country music and close harmonies. By using traditional instruments such as the washboard, the Bodhran (Irish frame drum), the Weissenborn and the mandolin, The Wanted produces a rich array of tone and variation on their debut CD.

This is a fine piece of work; full of contagious, raucous, hip-swaying music. The fourteen songs are all acoustic and demonstrate a very high level of musicianship. This is simply irresistible. Lead vocals are handled by Sandy Bell, Richard Henderson, Jeff Rogers and Natalie Rogers. Richard Henderson's work on the lap steel slide is masterful. Fascinating and compelling. Equally important are the harmonies on this record, where the voices blend into one in the style of The Carter Family. The Wanted- timeless songs performed by an excellent set of Canadian musicians with a real passion for music and collaboration.

Johan Schoenmakers

(translated from Dutch)