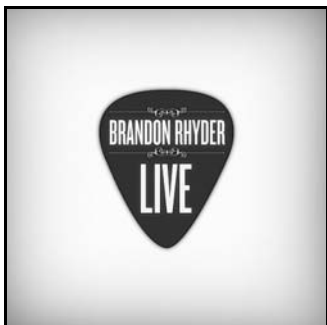


GLENN TAYLOR'S

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**Picks**  
*of the*  
**Month**
**Jason Eady & The Wayward Apostles - *Wild-Eyed Serenade***

What do you get when you mix musical styles like country, blues, gospel, folk, bluegrass and rock, mix it all up just right and bring the whole thing to a nice rolling boil? If you are Jason Eady & The Wayward Apostles, you have just made a feast for loyal, roots music loving fans the world over. The whole story starts just a few short years ago, when a frustrated Eady, just out of the Air Force, was getting fed up with the business of songwriting. Then everything changed, as the legend goes, after witnessing a Steve Earle show. Following up *From Underneath the Old*, his outstanding solo debut, Jason Eady, along with cohorts, Scott Davis, N. Jordan Kiener and Kenny Smith, make music that speaks to the soul. Songs about happiness, sadness, longing, heartbreak, vulnerability and triumph all blend together to give *Wild-Eyed Serenade* an energy that shimmers throughout the CD's twelve cuts. Titles like, *Redemption*, *Before I Was Dead*, *Waiting To Shine*, *Confidently Wrong*, and the album's beautiful title track are strong hints that not only style, but substance is very important to this band. At a time when radio is almost completely littered with empty vessels, pop country and overplayed fossil rock, it is very encouraging to hear such inspired original music. Buy this disc! [www.JasonEady.com](http://www.JasonEady.com)

**Brandon Rhyder- *Live***

The past couple of years have been pretty good to Brandon Rhyder. The release of his landmark album, *Conviction*, and the subsequent issue of a handful of radio singles that burned up the Texas and Roots Music charts for the better part of two years, helped catapult this artist to both fan appreciation and critical acclaim. At this point, it would have been easy to release "Conviction Live", but thankfully, that's not the case here. Although there are some high points off that album peppered throughout, there are also lots of surprises, including a performance of "One Step Closer", a current hit for Wade Bowen that was co-written by Rhyder. Combined with a couple of tunes from his first two albums, *Because She Loves Me* and *Behind the Pine Curtain*, and some new stuff, like "No One Stays in Love Alone", a song he wrote with Rodney Foster, what you get is anything but a typical live, best of collection. Finally, at album's end there is a little preview of what's currently going on in the studio. If the non-live tracks, "Before I Knew Your Name" and "Home Again" are any indication of what is coming next from Brandon Rhyder, then we have only just begun to see the potential of this enormously talented singer-songwriter. [www.BrandonRhyder.com](http://www.BrandonRhyder.com)

**Josh Grider- *Million Miles To Go***

The sophomore jinx can become a reality for even the most talented of musicians, especially when you are trying to follow up one of the most promising debut albums in recent memory. Weathering band fragmentation and changes in his personal life could have spelled disaster for Josh Grider, but instead, record number two comes off sounding like a labor of love, rather than an uphill battle. Teaming up again on many of the tracks with his best songwriting buddy Ryan Reese, *Million Miles To Go* takes Grider's sound to the next level and in a direction that is, quite often, much more stripped down than his first album. There are some great lyrics, like the album's opening cut, "Stumbling on the Edge of Greatness" when Josh optimistically sings, "I'm taking a chance on a maybe/ Might be the next Johnny come lately". The players surrounding Josh on this disc are terrific, with talented folks like, Merel Brigante, Walt Wilkins and the Mystiqueros, Bill Small, Tim Lorsch and others, coming together to create a very warm sounding record. Kristi Grider also makes some fine vocal contributions to her husband's record, like, "Hand to Hold" and on a hidden track tribute to Johnny and June. With the release of this new album and the sophomore jinx in the rear-view mirror, Josh Grider just got a whole lot closer to his destination. [www.JoshGrider.com](http://www.JoshGrider.com)

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