

Ron Jappy  
Vincular  
Bow Fiddle Records BWFDR001

[www.ronjappy.com](http://www.ronjappy.com)

\*\*\*\*\* **FIVE STAR CHOICE!** \*\*\*\*\*

The amazing Ron Jappy was born and bred in the village of Findochty on Scotland's North-East coast and is a regular contributor to Porthcawl's Cwlwm Celtaidd festival; he was a member of The Strathspey Fiddlers and the rip-roaring Jamie Smith's Mabon, and he accompanied Joy Dunlop and the festival's new home in the Hi-Tide Inn. Ron is a graduate on the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, moving down to Glasgow to carry on with his studies there. An extremely accomplished musician, he is highly sought after as a composer, arranger, guitarist, fiddle player and pianist - however he most enjoys playing guitar with a long list of Scottish rising stars including Ainsley Hamill, Barluath, Claire Hastings, Hannah Rarity, Iona Fyfe, M̀anran, Rachel Hair and Skerryvore.

*Vincular* is an adjective describe a link, a bind or a connection; Ron certainly connects with a long line of glittering musicians, including Ainsley on vocals, Scott Wood on bagpipes and whistle, Alice Allen on cello, Euan Malloch on electric guitar, Innes Watson on viola, Grant McFarlane on accordion, James Lindsay on double bass, Mhairi Mackinnon on fiddle and Joy who stepdances a treat. His fiddle, guitar playing and keyboards definitely light the blue touch-paper on the album, and his brilliant arrangements set the tunes and songs on fire. The opening track 'Trouble' - a trio of fiery Jamie Smith ('Jig Trouble In Little Blania'), Ron himself ('The Barbers' Night Out') and Graham Mackenzie compositions - virtually explodes in your face. 'From The East' is completely different; the strutting strathspeys 'Mrs Ramsey of Barnton' and 'Marj and Grant Bremner of Everly' (another Ron classic) segue into J. Scott Skinner's tripping reel 'Miss Paul', while the whole band swings together in William Marshall's 'Lord Francis Russell'. Ron's 'Ashley Park' is joyful and fresh-faced, and Ainsley's sultry and quite wonderful voice tells the story of the traditional 'Mairead Nan Cuiread'. Ron accompanied harper Rachel Hair on a spectacular New Zealand tour, and he composed 'Northburn Creek' to show the beauties of the land; 'Tactical Penguin', including Ron's tune 'Kirsty's' is a white-hot showstopper; and Ainsley comes to the fore again to wave the saltire for Ron's anthemic 'A Place Called Home'.

Ron traces his philosophy: "One of the true joys of being an accompanist is sharing musical experiences with a vast array of talented and gifted musicians... the premise of this project was to create a record coordinated, arranged and drawn together from the viewpoint of an accompanist. My passion is enhancing a work and shaping its musical identity; taking it to the next stage of its life... Through my role as an accompanist, I have brought together a collection of musicians to create an album of unique perspective." Does it work? You bet your cotton-picking life it does! Wow!

***Mick Terns - Folk Wales***

