O'Donnell both as musician [guitar and piano] and also as arranger and album engineer, with Rory Donaghy, has produced 11 tracks which do justice to the man I will never get to see in live performance – much to my regret.

At times whimsical, reflective, wistful but quality self penned songs through and through. This album grows on me at every time of listening.
Joe Whittaker

Honey and the Bear: Made in the Aker Own label

Honey and the Bear comprise the multi-instrumentalist, song-writing duo Lucy Hart and Jon Hart. They recorded their impressive debut album *Made In the Aker* on the Suffolk coast, and it's full of local stories. Opening track *Dark Heart* tells of Eva, who ripped out her heart in despair when abandoned by her lover. According to legend, the waves transformed it into a piece of driftwood, with terrible consequences for anyone who finds it. *The Ferry* celebrates the long-running transport across the river Blyth, operated by several generations of the same families. *Tin Tin* is about Sir Christopher Cockerell's use of the Oulton Broad to try out his ideas for a "cat tin contraption" that, after many trials, became the hovercraft! *Margaret Catchpole* is a catchy tale of a feisty Suffolk maid who was transported to Australia.

Thankfully we live in more enlightened times, where women's efforts to find their own way are seen as inspiring. *Around the World* takes Dame Ellen McArthur as an example of overcoming adversity, while *Sailor's Daughter* encourages a woman to live her dreams. The two themes are brought together on *River Man,* where the ebb and flow of local rivers are a metaphor for life's trials and triumphs.

Springtime Girl made me smile with its descriptions of the ways Lucy's grandfather used gardening to show his love for his wife. Less happily, *One More Pour* laments the costs to growers of our coffee. We finish with *Tinker* about

Honey and the Bear

a night spent in a Norfolk forest, in close proximity to local wildlife.

These songs – all written by the pair - quickly get into your head. Their voices blend well together and there's a high standard of musicianship, with their playing complemented by members of Sam Kelly's Lost Boys - for whom Honey and the Bear provide support at Cecil Sharp House on 7th December. Honey and the Bear can also be seen at Green Note on 6th October.

The CD comes with a beautiful booklet with artwork by Lucy Hart, containing the lyrics and an explanation of each song.
Fiona Clark

Dovetail Trio: Bold Champions
GR! Records: GRR009

The Dovetail Trio are well known on the folk scene and Bold Champions is their second album. Although not recorded at a concert this is to all intents and purposes a live album. Recorded in a couple of days in a beautiful 160 year old school room this album is everything you would expect of a live performance from this talented trio.

The album contains 11 tracks and a bonus track and is filled with a variety of songs all linked by being Roud listed. The opening track, *The Light Dragoon*, is iconic Dovetail Trio. Lead by the lovely clear vocals of Rosie Hood, accompanied by the sensitive concertina playing of Matt Quinn and the driving guitar of Jamie Roberts all adorned by tight three part harmony vocals. This is the trio doing what they do best and sets the scene for the rest of the album. *Black Eyed Susan*, contrasts by being an a cappella trio where the vocal harmonies weave in and out of the melody and the lovely dynamics help to set the mood scene of the narrative.

The Keeper, changes the mood with its contrasting jaunty accompaniment which perfectly suits the song. *A Broadside* has the lead vocals taken by Jamie. A tale of female cross dressing, the accompaniment paints the perfect picture of celebration as the lady becomes captain of her ship.

Bold Champions is, for me, the stand out track of the whole album with its jaunty accompaniment and triumphant harmonies, although the a cappella track *The Wreck of the Northfleet* is a close second. The whole album is filled with one gem after another.

It is clear that the trio have worked hard to make sure that the vocals and instruments are placed nicely in the mix whilst being recorded live and they have succeeded in creating an album that faithfully represents a live performance including the final bonus track having been recorded live at the Grimsby Folk Club. This is classic Dovetail Trio that won't leave fans disappointed.
Vicki Swan

Le Vent du Nord: Territories
Borealis Records: BCD258

Le Vent du Nord have been on the road since 2002, played over 1900 concerts on five continents and recorded 10 albums. They are seriously tight and polished and *Territoires* is everything you would expect from this super group. Recorded with support from the Canada Council for the Arts the production is slick and there isn't a single hair out of place in this fast paced high energy Quebecois music.

Le Vent du Nord are Simon Beaudry on bouzouki/guitar and vocals, Nicolas Boulerice on hurdy-gurdy, piano and vocals, AndréBrunet on violin, feet and vocals, Réean Brunet on bass, melodeon, bombarde and vocals and Olivier Demers on violin, bombarde, guitar and vocals.

The CD has 13 tracks and from the first track *Le Pays de Samuel* you know instantly you are in for a high octane ride throughout the whole album. The sound is rich and full, the signature sound of the foot percussion driving the rhythm. There is no let up in *Adieu du Village* the twin fiddling powering the momentum. *Cotillion du Captaine* gives us a change in feel, there is no less energy, but the feel is more relaxed. The love song *Le Soir Arrive* gives us a more dreamy track with silky vocals