

Recent critical praise for Josh Ritter's *Sermon On The Rocks* ...



"The music is contagious."

"...it's an approach that brings out some of Ritter's slipperiest, nimblest wordplay...and a few genuine head-turners. Not many singers could pull off a whopper like, 'If you wanna see a miracle, watch me get down,' but when Ritter gets there near the end of 'Getting Ready To Get Down,' it lands like a grand punchline."

"One of the world's best songwriters. Josh Ritter's story songs feel so real."
- Chris Wienk, WEXT

"Josh Ritter's new album, *Sermon On The Rocks*, unfolds like a great book of short stories. The tales he tells, the metaphors he uses and the craft that goes into his songs are as literary as they are musical ... but Ritter's lyrics are undeniably compelling."
- Neal Losey, KCBX

The New York Times

"The literary-minded songwriter Josh Ritter...recharges his music on his eighth studio album, *Sermon on the Rocks*."

"Harking back to Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen and maybe a little Mark Knopfler, Mr. Ritter has always been a slinger of serious ideas and high-flown imagery."



"Switching from sparse, folksy acoustic melodies to terse, percussive Eighties textures, and from personal confessions to vivid character sketches, Ritter's new record couldn't be any more different from his last. Seldom do transformations feel this effortless."

"Ritter has always been a verbose songwriter, yet he's never before taken quite this much pleasure in the English language."

"With his latest, Ritter has achieved the near impossible, fully reimagining his own art while still holding close to what's always made him special."



"'Sermon on the Rocks' is very much a band record, with soulful ebullience."

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

"It is laced with startling imagery and dark apocalyptic humor."

"Mr. Ritter sings in an agreeable, accessible warble. And though his lyrics remain steeped in folk's dark Gothic traditions, Mr. Ritter has long since gone electric. The new album's music is airy, propulsive and more often than not, catchy."

THE HUFFINGTON POST

"...a rollicking and tender masterpiece."

"This song cycle is informed by the wild open prairie, by teenage lust and religious fervor, by talismans and apple pie, bad boys and good girls, oracles and riverbeds, dreamtime tunes and cowboy lullabies. It's pretty damn magical and well worth the wait."

"Ritter's songs are like novels, whole lives are lived sometimes in those beautiful lyrics, and if not a whole life, then a moment or moments that will reverberate forever like a faraway bell."

SALON

"Josh Ritter is sharper than ever."

"Catchy numbers threaded with Biblical imagery, contemplative ballads, and lyrical narratives comprise the album."



"For his latest album, *Sermon on the Rocks*, Ritter deftly balances more personal reflections against a canvas of fast-talking, complex characters and biblical imagery, shape shifting between songs like the crackling 'Henrietta, Indiana' and 'Getting Ready to Get Down.'"

The Boston Globe

"Singer-songwriter Josh Ritter is moving fast on his eighth album, but he never puts a foot wrong."



“His latest offering is, by Ritter’s standards, a near-raucous affair, a celebratory, percussive-driven record that feels as influenced by 80’s New Wave and hip hop as Leonard Cohen and John Prine ... much of *Sermon* feels celebratory, if not downright joyous.”

“*Sermon on the Rocks* isn’t so much a wild left turn for Ritter so much as it is prime evidence that the Idaho singer-songwriter’s bag of tricks is much bigger than anyone could have ever expected.”



"...his most rocking, rollicking record yet."

The Seattle Times

"...an exuberant follow-up that turns Ritter’s sharp storyteller’s eye outward."

popMATTERS

"Altogether, *Sermon on the Rocks* is a tour-de-force of what Ritter himself has called ‘messianic oracular honky-tonk,’ and with it, Ritter firmly reestablishes his position as one of this generation’s premier auteurs."



"...allows himself to have some fun while showing that his skills as a songwriter have emerged unscathed...and it suggests that his future is as bright as ever."



"Not only does his lyrical wit captivate individuals on practically all sides, angles, and vectors of the religious spectrum, but there's an unconventionally free-spirited method of delivery that only solidifies the whiff of whimsicality you may already smell from the song's title."



"...cements his poet status..."



"And that is *Sermon on the Rocks*. Not like anything. But very much like the best CD anyone will make for grown-ups this year."



"Ritter delivers the best songs of his career with *Sermon on the Rocks*."



"An unpredictable, adventurous, funny, weird, and ultimately wonderful listen from one of our finest songwriters working today."



"*Sermon*'s songs lurk in dark corners but also dance in the sunlight ... introducing more characters than could ever be contained in just one human being."

"... following the pull to grow and stretch as a songwriter, as he's clearly done on *Sermon on the Rocks*."



"His latest record, *Sermon on the Rocks*, deliciously blends the narratives of his religious upbringing with a sense of modern musical adventure."

Currentland

“Josh Ritter reaches out in a big way with his *Sermon*, which grabs your attention with lyrical wit, confrontation and resolution. The word-play in the upbeat “Getting Ready to Get Down” is maybe the most cleverly packaged and arranged he’s ever conjured...”



“*Sermon on the Rocks*, Ritter's eighth album, is not only a return to his dynamic, spirited, and confident form, it's one of his strongest collections yet.”



"There's an immense warmth to Ritter's music, as strong as ever on his latest release. For many musicians it is rooted in their songs but in Ritter's case it starts with his infectious personality and then carries through to his music. *Sermon on the Rocks* overflows with an enticing sincerity."

"*Sermon on the Rocks* is another feather in Ritter's cap, a magnificent album that challenges the listener in the best possible way."

MUSICSAVAGE

"It's an adventurous, folk-rock album with a shiny veneer that hides behind it darker almost apocalyptic feelings with a humorous tone."