

In 2008 the now-14-year-old from Portland, Oregon, **Tatiana Hargreaves** became the youngest ever to win the Championship Division of the Oregon Old-time Fiddlers Contest and the following year she took first place in the fiddle contest finals at the 2009 Appalachian String Band Music Festival, Clifftop, West Virginia. So her credentials in old-time music are well established. *Started Out To Ramble* (Patuxent 186) provides the perfect platform for her to display in full her exciting talents on fiddle and banjo that have been heard to great effect on Nate Leath's *Rockville Pike* album. The first thing to note is that Hargreaves plays a five-string fiddle and her tunings are listed adjacent each title in the notes. Secondly, although she may have learned tunes from others, Hargreaves has often gone back to listen to very early versions and learned the likes of Raleigh And Spencer, Waverley, Married Man's Blues and Rocky Pallet from them. She plays with finesse and depth, distilling the essence of the music rather than playing clichés. Most of the tunes are traditional although Hargreaves has included a self-penned The Dæmons (sic) Lament, Norman Blake's Ginseng Sullivan and the Delmore's She Left Me Standing On The Mountain for variety. She is equally adept on old-time banjo as she is on fiddle, as her rendition of the last-named song attests. Vocally Hargreaves is charming and she gets some sterling vocal help from cellist Emma Beaton and another rising starlet Sarah Jarosz (mandolin and banjo). The trio combine to good effect on the a cappella arrangement of Lord Ellie. Other highlights of this 15 track set are Walk Along John To Kansas, the haunting Pretty Saro and Margaret Randolph Waltz. Mentor and producer Bruce Molsky (fiddle, banjo and guitar) leads proceedings assiduously and draws the best out of all of the musicians that consists of a rhythm section of Danny Kniceley (guitar) and Mark Schatz (bass), and Tatiana's brother Alex (fiddle and mandolin). Look out for more from this young lady.