

**HAYES CARLL**  
WHAT IS IT  
DUALTONE

On *What It Is*, Houston, TX troubadour **Hayes Carll** is leaving the past behind. “I want to dig in, so this life doesn’t just pass me by,” he says. “I want that to be reflected in the work.” **Carll** returned to trusted producer Brad Jones (producer of 2008’s *Trouble in Mind* and 2011’s *KMAG YOYO*) to record *What It Is* – recruiting singer-songwriter, author, and fiancée Allison Moorer as co-producer. The production is adventurous – providing a path for him to go wherever **Carll** wants to go: forward. *What It Is* covers a broad range of topics, including the desire to bridge the country’s political divide, the ups and downs of relationships, and the challenge to stay present. **Carll** is alternately commanding and tender, but always soulful.



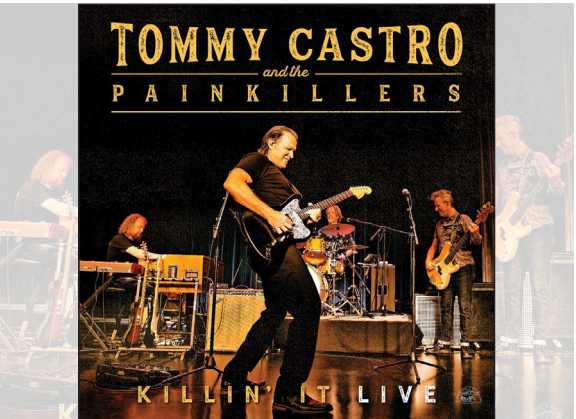
**CHATHAM COUNTY LINE**  
SHARING THE COVERS  
YEP ROC RECORDS

North Carolina-based ensemble **Chatham County Line**’s eighth studio album, *Sharing The Covers* is, at its core, a tribute to those whom the band hold dear – not to mention a chance for the group to perform modern and traditional classics in the bluegrass-style which they’re best known. With *Sharing The Covers*, **Chatham County Line** have cultivated an inventive collection of songs by Tom Petty, Alton Delmore, John Lennon, The Louvin Brothers, Beck, James Hunter, Wilco and more. The album was recorded at Durham, NC’s Overdub Lane – a familiar spot: It’s where they cut their first album, mixed 2010’s *Wildwood*, and recorded portions of its 2016 album, *Autumn*. *Sharing The Covers* was engineered by the band’s live sound engineer, Chris Boerner.



**LEO BUD WELCH**  
THE ANGELS IN HEAVEN DONE SIGNED MY NAME  
EASY EYE SOUND

**Leo Bud Welch**, the deceased delta bluesman, spent his life honing his musical craft. The Mississippi native and 30-year lumberjack performed as a gospel singer in his small hometown for years before he made his first record when he was in his seventies. The influence of the region he called home, his years of musicianship, and his well lived life blended together to create music that was as unique as he was. The stunning posthumous album, *The Angels in Heaven Done Signed My Name*, was produced by **Dan Auerbach** at his Easy Eye Sound studios in Nashville, Tennessee just before **Leo**’s death in December of 2017 and features contributions by the late, great **Richard Swift**.



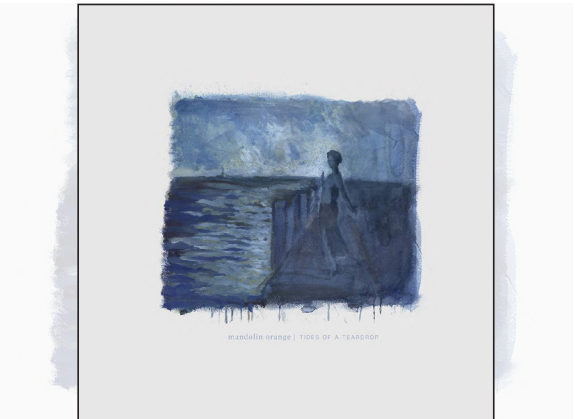
**TOMMY CASTRO & THE PAINKILLERS**  
KILLIN' IT LIVE  
ALLIGATOR RECORDS

Guitarist, vocalist and songwriter **Tommy Castro** has released 15 albums ranging from horn-fueled soul and R&B to piping hot blues to fiery rock ‘n’ roll. He’s performed all over the world, earning countless fans with his legendary, sweat-drenched, exhilarating live shows. **The Painkillers** — bassist Randy McDonald, drummer Bowen Brown and keyboardist Michael Emerson — have now been playing together over four years. After hundreds of live shows, they have coalesced into one of the telepathically tightest units **Castro** has ever assembled. With the group firing on all cylinders, **Castro** knew the time was right for a live album. *Killin’ It Live* captures the band at the peak of their creative and improvisational powers, and features one unforgettable, unpredictable performance after another.



**KACEY MUSGRAVES**  
GOLDEN HOUR  
MCA NASHVILLE

*Golden Hour* is Grammy-winner **Kacey Musgrave**’s trippy twist of the Bee Gees, Sade, and Neil Young. “I was thinking about how there are different masks that we wear that represent different sides of us,” she says of the album’s theme. “None of them alone are me, but the *Golden Hour* is when they all come together.” If that seems heady, well, it kind of is – but never at the behest of the smart, catchy songs. This ain’t a double-LP jazz odyssey into the nature of identity or anything – but Cosmic Country suits her well, and the psychedelic touches are subtle and satisfying, especially on the synth-kissed “Butterflies” and the slow-burning “Space Cowboy.” It just picked up a GRAMMY for Album of the Year – hear why.



**MANDOLIN ORANGE**  
TIDES OF A TEARDROP (FIRST EDITION)  
YEP ROC RECORDS

*Tides Of A Teardrop* finds **Mandolin Orange** – the duo of Andrew Marlin and Emily Frantz – exploring the intimate grief at the frayed edges of their songwriting, facing down the depths of despair and emerging with something renewed and redemptive. It’s a progressive, personal statement from one of roots music’s most thoughtful young groups, on the cusp of yet another prodigious breakthrough – one that’s focused on slow-burning acoustic meditations on love and loss. Whether it’s the trilling, weighty atmosphere of the allegorical “Wolves” or the Appalachian yearning of the hymn-like “Suspended In Heaven,” Marlin and Frantz’s vocal and instrumental interplay is as dialed in as ever, the instinctual expression of deeply known but unspoken truths.