



# HOMEGROWN



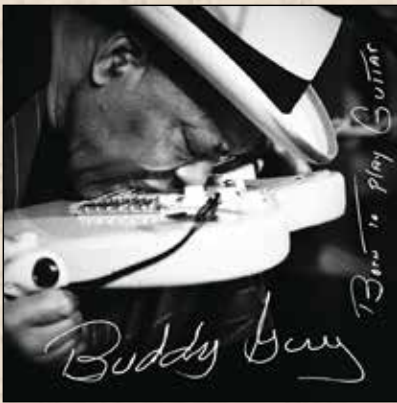
2015 AUGUST 2015



## SAMANTHA CRAIN UNDER BRANCH & THORN & TREE

RAMSEUR/THIRTY TIGERS

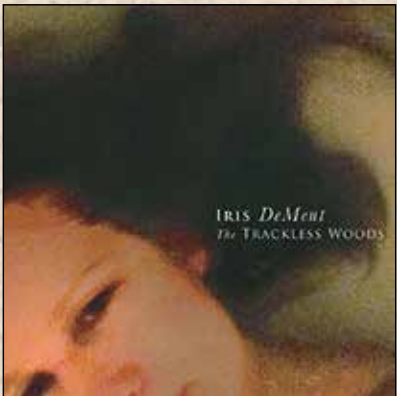
**Samantha Crain's** songs are full of expansive melodies that veer off in unpredictable directions, with lyrics that explore conflicting emotions with uncommon insight and compassion. She has a jazz singer's phrasing, often breaking words into rhythmic fragments that land before and after the beat, stretching syllables or adding grace notes to uncover hidden nuances in her lyrics. The intimate vignettes of her new album, *Under Branch & Thorn & Tree*, are marked by **Crain's** careful attention to the tiny details that often escape us, supported by the subtle musical settings she crafted with producer John Vanderslice at his Tiny Telephone Studios, where they honed a unique sound that stands apart from most singer-songwriter types: "We recorded straight to two-inch tape," says **Crain**. "Our effects were done manually through tape looping and manipulation. Most of the arrangements happened in the moment... My guitar and vocals are all first or second takes." The result is stunning.



## BUDDY GUY BORN TO PLAY GUITAR

RCA

"Nobody wants to break their own rules / But they have no problem breakin' mine" sings **Buddy Guy** on "Thick Like Mississippi Mud" – a fat horn-jammed workout slashed in two by some absolutely searing guitar courtesy of the man himself. He sings and plays like he knows some shit – and likely does – which is by **Born To Play Guitar** sounds so right and rude. **Guy** is in fine form on this gorgeously produced long-player – garnering heaps of grit on tracks like "Mud" and keeping just enough heat on simmering Windy City workouts like aptly-named title cut. **Born To Play Guitar** features guest appearances by Van Morrison, Joss Stone, Kim Wilson and Billy Gibbons. Morrison joins **Buddy** on the heartfelt "Flesh & Bone," a song dedicated to the late great B.B. King. On "Come Back Muddy" **Guy** reminisces about the good ole days with his friend Muddy Waters. Best enjoyed LOUD!



## IRIS DEMENT THE TRACKLESS WOODS

ACONY

Considered "one of the great voices in contemporary popular music" (NPR), **Iris DeMent** has returned with an album unlike any other in her illustrious career. Featuring original music and melodies by **Iris**, *The Trackless Woods* sets 18 poems by acclaimed 20th-century Russian poet Anna Akhmatova to life. Hailed as one of Russia's finest poets, Akhmatova survived the Bolshevik Revolution, both World Wars and Stalin. She lost family, friends and fellow writers to political killings and labor in the gulags. When **Iris** randomly stumbled upon Akhmatova's work in a book of poetry a friend sent as a gift, she was immediately taken by the sorrow and burden of the poems, juxtaposed with Akhmatova's lightness and transcendence in the face of inhumanity. The result is a breathtaking pairing of piano and voice in **Iris' sui generis** style with timeless melodies that are deeply rooted in the American South. The project also fulfilled a long yearned-for desire to connect with her adopted daughter's culture and history. **Iris** and her husband adopted their daughter from Siberia in 2005, and she says "I'd never have made this record were it not for her."