



# HOMEGROWN



## JIMI HENDRIX ATLANTA POP FESTIVAL

LEGACY

About 100 miles south of Atlanta, next to a field just outside the town of Byron, there stands a plaque erected by the Georgia Historical Society marking the location of the Second Atlanta International Pop Festival, where from July 3-5, 1970, "Over thirty musical acts performed, including rock icon **Jimi Hendrix** playing to the largest American audience of his career." Despite the overwhelming attendance (estimated to be 300,000-400,000), the festival and **Hendrix's** performance in particular, has not received its due in terms of historic importance and impact until now. *Jimi Hendrix: Electric Church*, a new documentary film about the music legend's Atlanta Pop set and the circumstances surrounding it airs on Showtime this month, but you can hear the complete set in all its glory with *Freedom: Atlanta Pop Festival*. Along with Mitch Mitchell and Billy Cox, *Freedom* finds **Hendrix** in spellbinding form – a mere 10 weeks before his death.



## JOHN MARK NELSON I'M NOT AFRAID

GNDWIRE

The past may be prologue, but for **John Mark Nelson**, the present is something else entirely: A gateway into a new era of life and the new sound that defines his upcoming album, *I'm Not Afraid*. Having released two critically lauded albums of melodic, lilting folk songs the ages of 17 and 19, **Nelson**, now 21, is set to take listeners on a leap forward into a new sonic landscape of propulsive rhythms and bright, complex instrumental arrangements. From the irresistible bounce and frustrated romance of the first single, "Dream Last Night," to the clap-along amble of "Broken" and the timeless, elegant sweep of "I Won't Win (If I Let You In)," *I'm Not Afraid* defies genre and demands attention. As a document of what **Nelson** calls "a very new, very different season of life," it positions him as one of the most exciting young songwriters and multi-instrumentalists of his generation.



## PHIL COOK SOUTHLAND MISSION

MIDDLE WEST/THIRTY TIGERS

**Phil Cook** has been an integral part of an incredible musical community that extends from his hometown of Eau Claire, WI to his current home of Durham, NC. After 10 years in the south, he has become a staple in the area's studios and has produced, composed, written for, and recorded on dozens of regional and national releases including albums by The Blind Boys of Alabama, Hiss Golden Messenger, Amy Ray, and Alice Gerrard's Grammy-nominated *Follow The Music*. Now it's time for **Cook** to step into the spotlight himself. He co-produced *Southland Mission* in a studio in the Blue Ridge Mountains, alongside his brother and co-producer, Brad Cook, and engineer Jon Ashley (The War on Drugs, Dawes, Zac Brown Band, Avett Brothers). These songs are steeped in that mountain air, blending Appalachian grooves with gut-bucket electric blues vamps into a satisfying, stomping whole.



## JON CLEARY GOGO JUICE

FHQ RECORDS/THIRTY TIGERS

*GoGo Juice* is the new album from one of New Orleans' premier musical ambassadors, **Jon Cleary**. Made in collaboration with multi-Grammy winning producer John Porter (B.B. King, Keb Mo, Ryan Adams, Los Lonely Boys) each of the carefully crafted songs is a delicate balance of the smooth and the rough; instantly memorable hooks over a set of sophisticated and soulful arrangements. The tracks were recorded over several days deep in the bayou country of Louisiana and subsequently honed in his studio in the old Bywater neighborhood of New Orleans. A blend of musical intelligence with direct, accessible pop simplicity that draws from tradition and yet is distinctively separate from it, *GoGo Juice* represents the many aspects of **Cleary's** musical personality as a multi-instrumentalist, singer, and songwriter.



## RUBY AMANFU STANDING STILL

RIVAL & CO RECORDS/THIRTY TIGERS

*Standing Still*, the gorgeous new album from Nashville songbird, **Ruby Amanfu**, was recorded live in just five days in a remote log cabin near Leiper's Fork, Tennessee. Upon arrival, the furniture was moved out and the six-piece band set up in the cabin's picturesque great room. The album's songs embody that purity and were recorded live, without bells, whistles or ProTools. Each and every song is a reverent moment. *Standing Still* embodies an eclectic mix of songs from both past and present, including a captivating rendition of "Anyone Who Knows What Love Is (Will Understand)", which was originally released by Irma Thomas in 1964 and has now been passionately reborn through **Ruby's** one-of-a-kind voice. Other tracks include Texas troubadour Jimmie Dale Gilmore's "Where You Going" and Kanye West deep-cut "Streetlights", which will leave you awestruck by **Ruby's** ability to translate and interpret songs. You need this.

# SEPTEMBER 2015



# HOMEGROWN



## DAVID RAMIREZ FABLES

THIRTY TIGERS

*Fables* is a sparse, poignant set of songs crafted around **David Ramirez'** starkly beautiful baritone, which the *New York Times* once described as full of "haggard loneliness." **Ramirez** has fiercely loyal fans that are drawn to his intimately personal songwriting. The album's title, *Fables*, was inspired by the first single, "Harder to Lie," which captures the moment **Ramirez** realized, as he puts it, "I couldn't bullsh\*t with [my girlfriend] anymore. She knew me completely. It got me thinking about how much I bullsh\*t in my life... When you don't know who you really are you can end up hurting people." That newfound maturity and clarity translated into his approach in the studio. "My previous albums were a bit less personal. I had never just walked in and said 'let's just see what happens.' And that's what we did this time. From the writing to the recording, it was just based on instincts."



## ROBERT CRAY 4 NIGHTS OF 40 YEARS

PROVOGUE

In just over 40 years **Robert Cray** and his band have recorded 20 studio releases, 15 of which have been on the Billboard charts, and played bars, concert halls, festivals and arenas around the world. There are five Grammys with **Cray's** name on them, and he has a suitcase full of W.C. Handy blues awards. Four years ago **Cray** was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame. *4 Nights of 40 Years Live* is a celebration of **Cray** and his music, told through clips of concerts from the 80s and four recent shows. It also includes commentary by **Cray** and band members, as well as interviews with Eric Clapton, Keith Richards, Bonnie Raitt, Jimmie Vaughan and Buddy Guy. The 3-piece set will be available in a variety of formats, including 2 LPs + Mp3, 2 CDs + DVD, Blu-Ray + 2 CDs.



## BOBBY LONG ODE TO THINKING

COMPASS RECORDS

British singer-songwriter **Bobby Long** first gained international attention in 2008 when he co-wrote a song that found it's way into the first film of the immensely popular *Twilight* series. The global impact of the film focused attention on him and spurred his move to America, where he has built a dedicated fan base around his hauntingly poetic lyrics and catchy melodies. On his third record, *Ode To Thinking*, **Long** returns to the basics: A guitar, sturdy songs, and his singularly plaintive voice. *Ode To Thinking* showcases a hard-won maturity that belies **Long's** 29 years. A prolific songwriter who has been compared to his own heroes – Elliott Smith, Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan – **Long's** vision for *Ode to Thinking* was honed in a live setting, where each song found it's place on the album after being perfected on stage.



## THE WAIFS BEAUTIFUL YOU

COMPASS RECORDS

A trip that began in a van in 1992, with the three troubadours playing gigs anywhere in Australia that would have them, has led **The Waifs** to multiple ARIA awards, platinum albums in Australia and successful tours across the world, including opening for Bob Dylan in North America and Australia in 2003. Now the beloved Australian folk rock band are back with *Beautiful You*. Produced by Nick DiDia (Bruce Springsteen, Pearl Jam, Powderfinger), *Beautiful You* was written between the USA and Australia by **The Waifs'** songwriting trifecta of Donna Simpson, Vikki Thorn and Josh Cunningham. The resulting 12-song collection merges the three separate songwriters into a cohesive, roots-rock musical feast. Along with bassist Ben Franz and drummer David Ross Macdonald, the five-piece outfit have created an album that echoes with both wisdom and pop appeal.

# SEPTEMBER 2015