



HOMEGROWN



AUGUST 2016



LORI MCKENNA THE BIRD & THE RIFLE

CN RECORDS

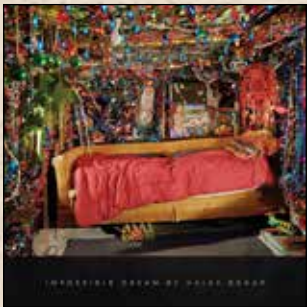
Lori McKenna puts a magnifying glass on un-championed lives. She doesn't just notice the quiet and ordinary, she delights in it – effortlessly transforming the average to extraordinary. The result is over a decade worth of songs filled with honest stories and melodic depth, and her latest release is no exception. Produced by Dave Cobb, **McKenna's** tenth studio album, *The Bird & The Rifle* revels in the routines and events that may seem mundane but are the most important, transcendent moments of our lives. *The Bird & The Rifle* proves that the worlds of Cobb and **McKenna** were meant to overlap. The Grammy-winning producer behind albums from Jason Isbell, Sturgill Simpson, Chris Stapleton, and more, Cobb has emerged as a modern master of capturing the grizzled beauty in imperfection. Recorded live, the album invites close listening, achieving an intimacy that is comfortable but precise – a perfect compliment to **McKenna's** sterling songcraft.



JOHN PRINE IN SPITE OF OURSELVES

OH BOY RECORDS

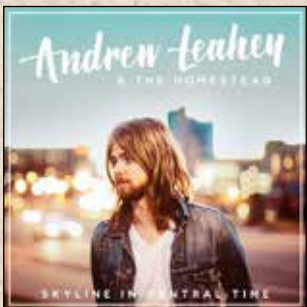
John Prine needs no introduction. Soon, the amazing singer songwriter will be unleashing a brand new album of duets called *For Better, Or Worse* featuring the likes of Miranda Lambert, Kacey Musgraves, Lee Ann Womack and Kathy Mattea. The only holdovers from the first go-round are his wife Fiona and his old friend Iris DeMent. And what was that first go-round? A little record called *In Spite of Ourselves* that came out in 1999 and is about to get a vinyl release for the very first time. That album, which featured duets with Lucinda Williams, Iris DeMent, Trisha Yearwood, and Emmylou Harris, among others, only had enough songs for three sides, so that they had to add extra songs in order to fill both discs. Those extra duets gave birth the aforementioned sequel. Confused? Don't be. Just pick up *In Spite of Ourselves*, revel in its glory, and ready yourself for sequel –which is coming in September.



HALEY BONAR IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

GNDWIRE RECORDS

Recorded on analogue tape at Pachyderm Studios, Minnesota and produced by **Haley Bonar** and Jacob Hansen, *Impossible Dream* is the follow-up to 2014's *Last War*, which enjoyed widespread critical acclaim and featured in NPR and Village Voice's Albums Of The Year lists. *Impossible Dream* is **Bonar's** most ambitious record to date. Blending scuzzy 1980s indie, new wave angularity and Spectorish reverb, her songs are, as NPR once described, "as relentlessly catchy on the surface, as they are alluringly complex underneath." Hypnotic opener 'Hometown' shimmers like a Twin Peaks outtake, the shuddering, swirling 'Kismet Kill' recalls Mazzy Star, while the soaring synth and pounding drums of 'Stupid Face' summons the spirit and melody of 'Porcupine' era Echo And The Bunnymen. Intrepid and diverse, *Impossible Dream* is consistently bold, infectious and inventive. Says NPR: "**Haley Bonar's** songs marry fizzy arrangements to cuttingly quotable observations about love, disappointment, identity and the curling of youth."



ANDREW LEAHEY & THE HOMESTEAD SKYLINE IN CENTRAL TIME

SKYLINE MUSIC

Andrew Leahey & the Homestead makes modern music for roots-rockers and pop fans alike, mixing super-sized hooks with ringing guitar chords, Hammond organ, and stacked vocal harmonies. It's music that nods to the past while still pushing forward, finding new life in a sound that's been blasting out of car stereos ever since the invention of FM radio. *Rolling Stone* calls **Leahey's** sound "heartland rock." Billboard calls it "southern-fried rock/soul." The songwriter himself just calls it rock & roll. On *Skyline in Central Time*, **Leahey** sings about life and love in the American South. Produced by Wilco co-founder Ken Coomer (who also plays drums on all 11 songs), the album was largely written in the aftermath of an emergency brain operation that left **Leahey** in recovery for months. The songs that came during his recovery celebrated the will to stay alive and thrive – and that optimism is positively infectious.



THE FELICE BROTHERS LIFE IN THE DARK

YEP ROC RECORDS

Life In The Dark was recorded in a rented garage-turned-recording-studio on Letterbox Farm, a working farm in New York State's verdant Hudson Valley in Columbia County. This album follows **The Felice Brothers'** 2014 release *Favorite Waitress*, which *American Songwriter* hailed as "a remarkably varied and well-paced collection of tunes." The nine new songs on *Life In The Dark* find lyricist Ian Felice continuing to explore modern life in a complicated and divided America, through a cynical and occasionally heartbroken lens, in the tradition of songwriters like John Prine, Shane MacGowan and Michael Hurley. Musically the band incorporates their expansive knowledge of American folk music — both its creators and what makes it so compelling and enduring — with other elements of contemporary music — classic rock and blues. The result which, has previously been dubbed "rowdy, vivid, moving and playful...just glorious" (*Uncut*), is in full-effect here on songs like "Sally," "Plunder" and more.



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O'CONNOR BAND WITH MARK O'CONNOR COMING HOME

CONCORD/ROUNDER

Multi Grammy and CMA Award-winning fiddler and composer **Mark O'Connor** returns to progressive bluegrass and country music with the **O'Connor Band** and their debut album, *Coming Home*. In the **O'Connor Band**, **Mark** is joined by his wife Maggie on violin and harmony vocals, his son Forrest on mandolin and lead vocals, and Forrest's fiancée, Kate Lee on violin and lead vocals. *Coming Home* is a perfect balance of contemporary songcraft by Forrest and Kate and intricate instrumentals featuring the band's triple fiddle lineup. The **O'Connor Band** is rounded out by national flatpick champion Joe Smart on guitar and Geoff Saunders on bass and banjo. Co-producer and Grammy-winner Gregg Field says, "At the heart of any album is the songwriting. Kate and Forrest have seductively crafted alluring stories and colorful characters in their songs, some biographical and each one sounding like a new standard."



THE CADILLAC THREE BURY ME IN MY BOOTS

BIG

The **Cadillac Three**, whose members include native Nashvillians Jaren Johnston, Neil Mason and Kelby Ray, have been friends and musical co-conspirators since they were kids. They've weathered their wild teenage years and even wilder tours, weathered major label letdowns and major league triumphs, conquered Music Row – Johnston co-wrote Keith Urban's #1 single "You Gonna Fly" – and crashed on the couches of strangers in far flung cities. But in spite of all the trials and tribulations, **The Cadillac Three** has emerged with a sound all its own, a sound that hovers between radio-ready country anthems, hard-and-heavy rock and traditional Southern folk. You could call it country fuzz, you could call it hipster-billy, you could call it any number of over-hyphenated, adjective-strewn things but when you boil it all down there's only one way to describe it: damn good music, as pure and refreshing as a country creek.



CHRIS LANE GIRL PROBLEMS

BIG LOUD

Low-slung baritones are a country tradition; so are big, booming vocals built for twangy power ballads. Yet, as varied as the genre can be, it isn't often that someone comes along with a take or a tone that shakes it to the core while still keeping that center strong and solid; someone so modern it's hard to find a point with which to compare. But listen to one moment of **Chris Lane's** signature falsetto, and it's clear there's a new range in town. In **Lane's** hands, mixing those earth-shattering high notes with banjo plucks and a danceable beat has never felt more natural, or so unique. He may have some *Girl Problems*, as the title of his forthcoming debut album suggests, but he has no problem at all weaving a fresh sound that both thrills country fans and encourages the pop faithful to dip a toe into his side of the Mason-Dixon.



MARLEY'S GHOST THE WOODSTOCK SESSION

VIRTUAL LABEL GROUP

After more than 25 years of making music together, recording nine albums, and performing thousands of shows nationally and internationally, **Marley's Ghost** remains one of the best-kept secrets of the acoustic music world, an untapped natural resource waiting to be discovered. Even the members of the band have trouble describing their music, but they all know whatever they do, it always comes out sounding uniquely like **Marley's Ghost**. Guitarist Mike Phelan says it's the vocals. Steel guitarist Ed Littlefield says it's the broad repertoire. Guitarist Dan Wheelman just calls it American roots music, if you count reggae - and why wouldn't you?!? The band's new album, *The Woodstock Sessions*, was recorded with Larry Campbell at the helm – not only a master musician and all-around great guy, but also a three-time Grammy-award winning producer and recipient of the Americana Music Association Lifetime Achievement Award. A good deal of the album was recorded at the legendary Levon Helm Studios in Woodstock – hence the name.



DAVID NAIL FIGHTER

MCA NASHVILLE

Fighter is **David Nail's** most vulnerable, personal record signaling the beginning of a new phase in his career. "Having been a father for about five months, it definitely changes the dynamic of things." Following the birth of his twins, the things he wanted to say had changed, and despite an early version of *Fighter* being already finished, he decided to record four new songs, completely changing the project's tone. Already known for powerful, emotionally-charged vocals, he took the same approach to choosing *Fighter's* 11 tracks, celebrating life's victories but also confronting his deepest troubles. Meanwhile, producer Frank Liddell made sure *Fighter's* musical tone was just as authentic, backing **Nail's** volcanic vocals with a melting pot of Mississippi-delta sounds — a mix of classic-country balladry and sweaty Memphis soul, with touches of in-the-moment modernity sprinkled throughout. Vince Gill, Brothers Osborne, Lori McKenna and Logan Brill, and Bear and Bo Rinehart of NEEDTOBREATHE guest.