



HART VALLEY DRIFTERS FOLK TIME

ATO/ROUND RECORDS

One day in late 1962, a 20-year-old **Jerry Garcia** and four band mates walked into Stanford University's KZSU radio station to make this recording. They called themselves the **Hart Valley Drifters**, and the spoken introduction tells us that the band included Jerry, future Grateful Dead lyricist Robert Hunter and guitarist David Nelson, who would later form the New Riders of the Purple Sage with Garcia. They were joined by Ken Frankel, another early musical partner of Jerry's, and Norm Van Maastricht. **The Hart Valley Drifters** was one in the long line of groups that Garcia put together during the folk revival of the early 1960s, but it was perhaps his first band to present a professional level of musicianship and vocal harmony. **Folk Time** captures an early moment in Jerry's career when he'd become well educated in American roots music, and showcases influences from which Garcia and Hunter would later draw on for the Grateful Dead's *Workingman's Dead* and *American Beauty*.



BANKS THE ALTAR

HARVEST

"Tell me what you want from me. I think you need a weaker girl, kinda like the girl I used to be," sings **Banks** on "Weaker Girl," with a voice that is both reflective and self-assured. **The Altar** embodies a new kind of strength for **Banks** – not one that she didn't have before, but that she's now embracing in full. The album, which features collaborations with producers and writers including Tim Anderson, SOHN, DJ Dahi, and Jenna Andrews, was driven by **Banks'** deep, insistent need for raw expression and solace. When **Banks** broke out with 2014's *Goddess*, she became the world's most blogged about artist, with a voice compared to the likes of Fiona Apple, Erykah Badu and Lauryn Hill, and a sound that took alt-pop and R&B to electrifying new places. **The Altar** pushes those edges even further, and pulls no punches. It's an inspiring confrontation of complicated love, pain, and self-doubt.

caroline

Mixtape



JOSEPH I'M ALONE, NO YOU'RE NOT

ATO RECORDS

There is nothing like the sound of siblings singing together. Whether it's the Beach Boys or the Everly Brothers—or, more recently, First Aid Kit—absorbing the same breathing rhythms and speech patterns adds an element to vocal harmonies that can be pure magic. With the release of *I'm Alone, No You're Not*, the mesmerizing, hypnotic sound of the trio known as **Joseph**—made up of sisters Allison, Meegan, and Natalie Clossner—joins this elite company. **Joseph** recorded *I'm Alone, No You're Not* with acclaimed producer Mike Mogis (Bright Eyes, Jenny Lewis, First Aid Kit) at his studio in Omaha. He was able to open up their expansive, evocative vocal sound with powerful and striking arrangements, adding depth while highlighting their haunting intensity. Says NPR: "**Joseph** may have gotten its start playing living-room shows, but these songs are more than sturdy enough to support the layers of studio polish they get here."



DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS AMERICAN BAND

ATO RECORDS

A powerful and legitimately provocative work, hard edged and finely honed, **American Band** is the sound of a truly American Band – a Southern American band – speaking on matters that matter. **Drive-By Truckers** made the choice to direct the "Way We Live Now" head on – employing realism rather than subtlety or symbolism to purge its maker's own anger, discontent, and frustration with societal disintegration and the urban/rural divide that has partitioned the country for close to a half-century. Fueled by a just spirit of moral indignation and righteous rage, **American Band** is protest music fit for the stadiums, designed to raise issues and ire as the nation careens towards its most momentous election in a generation. **American Band's** considerable force can in part be credited to the sheer musical strength of the current **Drive-By Truckers** line-up – the longest-lasting iteration in the band's two-decade history. Having two of the best songwriters in The Game doesn't hurt either. You need this.