



# HOMEGROWN



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## RANDY ROGERS BAND NOTHING SHINES LIKE NEON

TOMMY JACKSON RECORDS/THIRTY TIGERS

"You've just got to be true to yourself and you can't fool anybody," **Randy Rogers** states matter-of-factly of the band's philosophy. "As a whole, our body of work is pretty consistent to our live show and the band that plays on the record is the band that you go see." The same line up has been performing together since 2002 and the music has evolved as they've soaked up life experience. **Nothing Shines Like Neon** continues the momentum established by the band's four previous albums. Produced by Nashville legend Buddy Cannon (Willie/Merle) at Cedar Creek in Austin, **Nothing Shines Like Neon** showcases the band's taut musicianship as well as **Rogers'** earnest vocals and insightful songwriting on such instant classics as the groove laden "Rain and the Radio," the heartbreak anthem "Neon Blues" and the playful "Actin' Crazy," a duet with Jamey Johnson.



## SONYA KITCHELL WE COME APART

ROCKWOOD MUSIC HALL

It's said that every cell in our bodies regenerates over the course of seven years, making us different people, literally, than we were before. It's a different **Sonya Kitchell** who returns after seven years with **We Come Apart**, her first full-length album since 2008. You can hear it in the drowsy sensuality of "Mexico," where **Kitchell** sings in alluring tones over a classic-pop blend of piano, little sunbursts of guitar and a restless bassline that moves things along. Album opener "Follow Me In" has a folkier feel, with chiming guitars and ukulele chasing **Kitchell's** voice into its breathy upper register; while "This Feeling" rides a stomping beat through walls of corrugated guitar as **Kitchell** sings with pulsating intensity. The album completes a cycle of its own by ending with the title track, an aching piano ballad that subtly underscores the theme of renewal – fitting as you'll wanna hear it again and again.



## BROTHERS OSBORNE PAWN SHOP

EMI NASHVILLE

"It's challenging to have an entire life's work summed up in 11 songs so we really focused on having every track on this album held together by what John and I do," states TJ Osborn of the aptly-named **Brothers Osborne** and their new album, **Pawn Shop**. "We want it to be different scenes on each track but to keep each one honest and from our perspective." **Brothers Osborne's** rural blue-collar upbringing infiltrates the music they make as a twang-and-crunch duo that blends equal parts country and rock into one of the freshest, most identifiable sounds to come out of Nashville in recent years. "Our upbringing certainly influenced the theme of this record," notes John. "It's who you re with and who you are that makes you happy. For us, as long as you re able to enjoy yourself with family and friends you re really living the good life."



## CHARLES KELLEY THE DRIVER

CAPITOL NASHVILLE

Stepping outside of **Lady Antebellum**, one of the world's most popular groups, **The Driver** finds **Charles Kelley** exploring new territory with a raw sound that pushes his vocals into a lower, grittier key. Born in a ratty studio in the back of producer Paul Worley's offices, the initial batch of songs gave **Kelley** a sense that he was going to be diving into some new territory, with a real sense of range as "Lonely Girl" and "Your Love" have a Hall and Oates-style, while his cover of Tom Petty's "Southern Accents" (featuring Stevie Nicks) has a stark and melancholy feel. "At first, it was really weird to go in the booth and be like, Where's Hillary? Where's Dave?" **Kelley** shared. "It was the most fun I've had in the studio, because it took me out of my comfort zone." But you'll find **The Driver** as comfortable as your favorite pair of jeans.



## AOIFE O'DONOVAN IN THE MAGIC HOUR

YEP ROC RECORDS

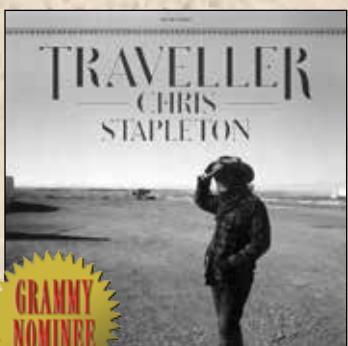
In the quiet moments found between touring her first solo album, **Aoife O'Donovan** found the inspiration to write her sophomore album **In the Magic Hour**. "Flying, getting the rental car, eating all my meals alone..." **O'Donovan** says. "I think that gave me more time to edit my lyrics and really be more mindful with them." The result is a 10-song album full of the singer's honeyed vocals mixed with gauzy, frictionless sounds: splashing cymbals, airy harmonies, the leisurely baritone musings of an electric guitar. The lyrics on **In the Magic Hour** are infused with a sense of loss and mortality's dark certainty. But the album is just as much an ode to **O'Donovan's** joyful childhood visits to Ireland – in that way, **In the Magic Hour** is a meditation on the power of memory. Tucker Martine (The Decemberists, Neko Case) produced, while Composer Gabriel Kahane, Chris Thile, Sara Watkins, and Sarah Jarosz are among the guests.



## FREAKWATER SCHEHERAZADE

BLOODSHOT RECORDS

**Scheherazade**, the storied namesake of the new album by **Freakwater**, told elaborate, interwoven tales of depth and pathos, because her life quite literally depended on it. **Freakwater's** songs, as well, are stories within stories, spinning into other stories, asking more than they answer. Anchored around the fragile and compelling harmonies of Janet Bean and Catherine Irwin and the subdued, oracular bass playing of Dave Gay, **Freakwater's** utterly unique sound is distilled from many sources. There's the elemental ache and loss in the soil of Kentucky, the songs and struggles that passed over and over the Atlantic from the British Isles centuries ago, the ratty punk clubs of Louisville at a time when rules and formalities were, if even known, to be ignored. At once bluegrass, blues, folk, and country, it is also none of them. **Scheherazade** is the product of two voices intertwined with one another for over three decades. It might be best summarized as Appalachian soul.



## CHRIS STAPLETON TRAVELLER

MERCURY NASHVILLE Already a world-renowned songwriter, **Chris Stapleton** has enjoyed five #1 hits including "Never Wanted Nothing More" recorded by Kenny Chesney, George Strait's "Love's Gonna Make it Alright" and Luke Bryan's "Drink A Beer." Additionally, **Stapleton** has shared the stage with such respected artists as Vince Gill, Alison Krauss, Marty Stuart, Emmylou Harris and more. As lead vocalist for The SteelDrivers, **Stapleton** earned three Grammy nominations as well as an International Bluegrass Music Association Award. **Stapleton's** new solo album, **Traveller** was produced by Dave Cobb (Sturgill Simpson, Jason Isbell) and recorded by Vance Powell (Jack White). In addition to renditions of Dean Dillon and Linda Hargrove's "Tennessee Whiskey" and Don Sampson's "Was It 26," the album features twelve original songs, including fan-favorite "Sometimes I Cry." "This record was made standing on the shoulders of friends, family, and heroes," says **Stapleton**. "I hope people enjoy listening to it as much as I've enjoyed making it."

