



For Immediate Release

THE MASTERSONS READIES SOPHOMORE LP, *GOOD LUCK CHARM*, PRODUCED BY JIM SCOTT, ANNOUNCES TOUR WITH JUSTIN CURRIE AND STEVE EARLE

LOS ANGELES, CA, April 9, 2014 – Filled with irresistible melodies, buoyant harmonies and stellar songwriting, **The Mastersons'** sophomore LP, *Good Luck Charm*, due **June 17** on **New West Records**, embodies the singular spark husband and wife duo **Chris Masterson** and **Eleanor Whitmore** have developed in their experiences living, touring and making music together. The title track, which is premiering over at *Paste* today, was inspired by **Senator Wendy Davis'** historic filibuster in the band's hometown of Austin last summer. "This isn't meant to be a political album, but there are definitely some tracks that touch on that," Eleanor says. "But it's meant to be galvanizing, not polarizing. In the current political climate, people are frustrated and feel like they don't have a voice, but I know from experience that if people organize and speak up, they can make a difference. That's what that song's about."

Their second record together, yet in many ways their first full-on collaboration, all of *Good Luck Charm's* songs were co-written by the couple, giving the material added depth and a powerful collective lyrical identity matched by their expressive harmonies. Recorded in Southern California with noted producer/engineer **Jim Scott**, whose resume includes work with **Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers**, **Wilco** and **Dixie Chicks**, it's evident from the first note that the California sunshine seeped into the album as it's both more upbeat and positive than their critically lauded 2012 debut LP, *Birds Fly South*. From the effervescent pop-rock opener, "**Good Luck Charm**" to the country-fried "**Closer To You**," to the gentle romance of "**I Found You**" and the soaring "**Cautionary Tale**," this new collection raises the stakes with 11 emotionally precise new songs that are firmly rooted in sometimes-harsh reality, yet which radiate hope and optimism.

"Playing a few hundred shows has really solidified us as a band and focused our vision for the new record," Chris says. "Every song is crafted for the two of us. When we made *Birds Fly South*, it just seemed like a good idea to do a record. Now we *know* it is."

While Chris (vocals/guitar) and Eleanor (vocals/fiddle) are seasoned songwriters and virtuosic multi-instrumentalists in their own right, they have also become integral members of **Steve Earle's** band **The Dukers**. They were featured on Earle's 2013 album, *The Low Highway*, and have played hundreds of shows with him since meeting in 2006. In fact, most of *Good Luck Charm* was written while on tour with Earle, stealing whatever time they could to work on the songs. Of the duo, Earle proclaims: "Chris is the best guitar player that's ever been in this band and Eleanor's a better musician than any of us."

Denton, TX-born Eleanor and Houston-bred Chris have both been making music for most of their lives. The daughter of an opera-singer mother and a folk singer/airline pilot father, Eleanor began playing fiddle at the age of four and studied with legendary Texas fiddler Johnny Gimble, and she and her sister Bonnie (a respected singer/songwriter in her own right) played in the family band. Chris, meanwhile, was a teen guitar prodigy, playing the blues in Houston clubs by the age of 13. Both future partners had considerable success as instrumentalists-for-hire, with Eleanor backing the likes of Regina Spektor, Kelly Willis, Diana Ross and Will Hoge, and Chris playing with Son Volt, Jack Ingram, Bobby Bare Jr. and Wayne Hancock. After meeting at a festival in Colorado in 2005, each released a solo project — Eleanor's *Airplanes* and Chris' *The Late Great Chris Masterson* — but eventually found more satisfaction in writing, performing and recording together.

The Mastersons are currently in Australia for a tour with Steve Earle as both part of his band and as the opening act. Upon their return home, they will join up with **Justin Currie** of **Del Amitri** for a run of shows that will take them across the U.S. with stops in **Los Angeles, New York, Nashville, Dallas** and **Austin**. With a successful SXSW and dates with Los Lobos under their belts, the year is already off to an

exciting start for the duo. With the release of their confident and compelling *Good Luck Charm*, as the *Austin-American Statesman* exclaimed, they're "poised to be one of Austin's breakout acts in 2014."

THE MASTERSONS ON TOUR

April 16 – Cairns, QLD @ Tanks Art Centre +
April 18 – Byron Bay, NSW @ Byron Bay Bluesfest
April 19 – Tallarook, VIC @ Buzzy's Farm - Boogie Festival
April 26 – Auckland, NZ @ Powerstation +
April 27 – Wellington, NZ @ St. James Theatre +
April 29 - Denver, CO @ The Soiled Dove Underground *
April 30 - Salt Lake City, UT @ The State Room *
May 2 - Mill Valley, CA @ Sweetwater Music Hall *
May 3 - Santa Monica, CA @ McCabe's Guitar Shop *
May 4 - Los Angeles, CA @ Largo *
May 6 - Scottsdale, AZ @ The Western *
May 8 - Dallas, TX @ Kessler *
May 9 - Austin, TX @ Cactus Cafe *
May 10 - Austin, TX @ Cactus Cafe *
May 13 - Nashville, TN @ 3rd & Lindsley *
May 14 - Carrboro, NC @ Cat's Cradle *
May 16 - Vienna, VA @ Jammin' Java *
May 17 - Brooklyn, NY @ Rough Trade *
July 12 – Houston, TX @ McGonigel's Mucky Duck – Record Release Show

+ With Steve Earle & The Dukes

* With Justin Currie

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