



For Immediate Release

**SARA WATKINS STEPS BACK INTO ROLL AS FRONTWOMAN ON REVEALING, SURPRISING
NEW ALBUM, *YOUNG IN ALL THE WRONG WAYS*, DUE JULY 1 ON NEW WEST RECORDS**

**SUMMER & FALL TOURS ANNOUNCED INCLUDING BONNAROO,
“A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION” AT HOLLYWOOD BOWL JULY 1**

NPR MUSIC PREMIERES VIDEO FOR “MOVE ME”

“Her new work has an intimacy that comes from moving beyond formal risk-taking into a new commitment: to a sound that acknowledges Watkins’ folksy roots while dwelling unabashedly in the personal and the contemporary.” – *NPR Music*

LOS ANGELES, CA, April 21, 2016 – *Young In All The Wrong Ways*, the forthcoming new album from **Sara Watkins**, due **July 1** on **New West Records**, sees the acclaimed songwriter and multi-instrumentalist boldly stepping back in to the role of frontwoman following the collaborative groups of **Watkins Family Hour** and the Platinum-selling, Grammy Award-winning **Nickel Creek**. Self-described as a “breakup album with myself,” writing and recording these 10 intensely soul-baring songs was a means for her to process and mark the last couple years, which have been transformative. A record about turning the page and taking the reins, in both her career and personal life, these intimate sentiments are paired with audacious musical jumps that push against expectations in unexpected ways. These songs contain some of the heaviest moments of her career, with eruptions of thrumming B3 organ and jagged electric guitar. But it’s also quiet, vulnerable, tenderhearted. “I looked around and realized that in many ways I wasn’t who or where I wanted to be,” reveals the accomplished musician who has been playing professionally since the age of eight. “It’s been a process of letting go and leaving behind patterns and relationships and in some cases how I’ve considered myself. What these songs are documenting is the turmoil you feel when you know something has to change and you’re grappling with what that means. It means you’re losing something and moving forward into the unknown.” The album, which will be available on LP, CD, and digital download, is available for pre-order as of today via **Pledge Music**:

<http://www.pledgemusic.com/projects/sarawatkins>

Watkins, who just finished a seven-week tour with **Patty Griffin** and **Anais Mitchell** as part of the League of Women Voters’ **Use Your Voice Tour** in an effort to drive voter engagement and education, will return to the road in **June** for a series of performances, including **Bonnaroo**, the **Telluride Bluegrass Festival**, the **Kennedy Center in D.C.**, **Rough Trade in Brooklyn** and a hometown record release show in **Los Angeles at Largo at the Coronet July 7**. On day of release, Watkins will take part in **Garrison Keillor’s “A Prairie Home Companion”** show at the **Hollywood Bowl**. An expansive tour that will take her from coast to coast will take place in the fall. See dates below with more to come.

NPR Music gave a glimpse into the new album today with the video premiere of “**Move Me**,” the emotionally-charged first single, describing the song as starting as a “gentle country-pop arrangement” that builds to “full-on, hair-flinging ’90s-goddess rock.” Directed by director/photographer **Allister Ann** (The Civil Wars), the video features Watkins at a dining table with her perfect mid-century American family having Sunday brunch. As she intensely sings about wanting to be “moved,” as day-glo gelatin “salads” and a cornucopia of ’50s and ’60s dishes are passed around, the others at the table are oblivious to her as if she’s not even there. “This song came out of feelings of frustration with some relationships that had gotten stale or outdated,” Watkins reveals. “Sometimes with old acquaintances and friends, and even family we keep conversation to the surface for fear of rocking a boat. But in order for forward motion, sometimes there has to be disruption.”

Young In All The Wrong Ways was produced by **Gabe Witcher** at **United Recording** (formerly Ocean Way) in Hollywood last year. Watkins wrote and recorded the album during a period when she was without a manager and

record label. For many artists that might be the worst possible time to enter the studio, but working without a net invigorated her. It was important for her to document this time in her life when she was between professional contracts: free from the weight of obligation to anyone but herself. Watkins knew just the right people to bring these tough-minded songs to life and together with her longtime friend Witcher they put together a stellar band that included two of his fellow Punch Brothers, guitarist **Chris Eldridge** and bass player **Paul Kowert**, and musicians **Jon Brion** and **Jay Bellerose**. Watkins' bandmates in her all-female trio, I'm With Her – **Sarah Jarosz** and **Aoife O'Donovan** – harmonize with her throughout the album– and **Jim James** of My Morning Jacket provides a vocal foil on “**One Last Time**.” “I’ve known these guys for a long time, so there’s a personal trust as well as a musical trust,” Watkins says.

Watkins wrote or co-wrote each of the album’s 10 songs – a first for her. And it’s this cohesion and thematic unity that makes this the most fully realized album of her solo career. It is also her most powerful, personal and revealing. Some songs are quiet and lonely like the wistful “**The Love That Got Away**” that pairs piano, Mellotron and ukulele with Watkins beautiful, aching voice and “**Like New Year’s Day**,” which describes in careful detail a trip out to the desert with the low-key arrangement echoing the reassuring isolation of the southwestern landscape. When writing this album, the accomplished fiddle player didn’t reach for the instrument she’s known for but for her Gibson hollow body electric guitar. While her virtuosic fiddle playing does feature on a couple tracks, ultimately it wasn’t what she was hearing in her head for many of these songs. The title track, which opens the collection, was the first song Watkins wrote for the record and it set the tone. Over stabs of electric guitar and explosive drumming, Watkins finds clarity: “I’ve got no time to look back, so I’m going to leave you here,” she sings, with new grit and fire in her voice. “I’m going out to see about my own frontier.”

YOUNG IN ALL THE WRONG WAYS TRACK LISTING

1. Young In All The Wrong Ways
2. The Love That Got Away
3. One Last Time
4. Move Me
5. Like New Year’s Day
6. Say So
7. Without A Word
8. The Truth Won’t Set Us Free
9. Invisible
10. Tenderhearted

SARA WATKINS ON TOUR

- June 12 – Manchester, TN @ Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival
- June 17 – Telluride, CO @ Telluride Bluegrass Festival
- June 22 – Portsmouth, NH @ Prescott Park Arts Festival
- June 23 – Washington, DC @ Kennedy Center Atrium – American Acoustic
- June 24 – Washington, DC @ Kennedy Center Concert Hall – American Acoustic (as I’m With Her)
- June 25 – Katonah, NY @ American Roots Music Festival
- June 26 – Shirley, MA @ The Bull Run
- June 28 – Brooklyn, NY @ Rough Trade
- July 1 – Los Angeles, CA @ Hollywood Bowl – “A Prairie Home Companion”
- July 7 – Los Angeles, CA @ Largo at the Coronet
- July 13 – Vail, CO @ Vail Summer Bluegrass Series
- July 14 – Boulder, CO @ eTown Hall
- July 16 – Oak Hill, NY @ Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival
- August 13 – Alta, WY @ Targhee Fest
- September 3 – Pagosa Springs, CO @ Four Corners Folk Festival
- September 9 – Pasadena, CA @ Levitt Pavilion @ Memorial Park
- September 10 – Santa Barbara, CA @ Lobero Theatre
- September 14 – San Francisco, CA @ The Chapel
- September 16 – Portland, OR @ Aladdin Theatre
- September 17 – Seattle, WA @ The Tractor
- September 20 – Minneapolis, MN @ Dakota Jazz Club

September 21 – Chicago, IL @ Old Town School Of Folk Music
September 24 – Atlanta, GA @ City Winery
September 25 – Asheville, NC @ The Grey Eagle
September 27 – Annapolis, MD @ Rams Head On Stage
September 28 – Philadelphia, PA @ World Cafe Live
September 20 – Pawling, NY @ Daryl's House
October 1 – Allston, MA @ Brighton Music Hall
October 2 – Portland, ME @ One Longfellow Square
October 3 – Northampton, MA @ Iron Horse Music Hall
October 5 – New York, NY @ Bowery Ballroom
October 6 – Washington, DC @ The Hamilton
October 9 – Peninsula, OH @ The G.A.R. Hall
November 2 – Dublin, IE @ Whelan's
November 3 – Belfast, IE @ Errigle Inn
November 4 – Bury, UK @ Met
November 5 – Gateshead, UK @ The Sage
November 6 – Sheffield, UK @ Greystones
November 8 – Bristol, UK @ Tunnels
November 10 – London, UK @ Bush Hall
November 11 – Oxford, UK @ Bullingdon
November 12 – Guildford, UK @ St. Mary's
November 13 – Saltaire, UK @ Live at Caroline
November 30 – Lincoln, NE @ Lied Center

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