



LUTHER DICKINSON'S BLUES & BALLADS (A FOLKSINGER'S SONGBOOK: VOLUMES I & II) GAINS 2017 GRAMMY NOMINATION FOR "BEST TRADITIONAL BLUES ALBUM"

"It's a guide to the legends and songs that any fan of the blues needs to hear."—Garden & Gun

Luther Dickinson is included among the 2017 GRAMMY Award nominations in the "Best Traditional Blues Album" category for his ambitious double album *Blues & Ballads (A Folksinger's Songbook: Volumes I & II)*, which released earlier this year on New West Records. The album features twenty-one tunes from throughout Dickinson's impressive life and inimitable career – brand new songs, songs he wrote with his rock & roll band the North Mississippi Allstars, songs he learned from friends and family, songs passed down to him by his heroes and mentors, songs that have lived in the American subconscious for decades now – presented in a similar, stripped down palette of voice, guitar, drums and some blues fife and Beale Street piano. Additionally, the vinyl version of the album was originally released with a limited edition songbook complete with transcriptions for each song.

"[These songs] tell my story of growing up in the modern day rural south amongst first generation Memphis rock 'n rolling, song collecting, folk bohemians, disapproving pre-rock 'n roll holy rollers, citified punk rockers and modern day blues giants, experiencing the miracle that was Fat Possum Records and Hill Country Blues in the '90s, singing my song in a language near extinction, barely pre-Internet, when community, word of mouth, firsthand experience, books, records and art still ruled," Dickinson comments of his inspiration for the tracks. "When the elders began passing on, I realized that my family, friends and heroes should be made into folk heroes and their vernacular and stories should be sung."

Described as a "community project" by Dickinson, the album includes appearances by Jason Isbell, Jim Lauderdale, Amy LaVere, Shardé Thomas, JJ Grey, Charles Hodges, Jimbo Mathus and Mavis Staples. It was recorded in a variety of locations, such as the Dickinson family studio in Mississippi, Zebra Ranch, Memphis' Sun Studio and Royal Studios. "This acoustic collection of songs interpreted simply, recorded live, solo or with a small group of friends reflects my relationship between music, songs, the written word and legacy," Dickinson explains. "Blues & Ballads celebrates the American oral tradition of blues and folk songs, not only being passed down and evolving but being transcribed (the original recording technique) and entered into the discipline of written sheet music and songbooks."

Blues & Ballads (A Folksinger's Songbook: Volumes I & II) Track Listing:

Volume I

- 1 Hurry Up Sunrise 3:53
- 2 Up Over Yonder (featuring JJ Grey) 3:19
- 3 Bang Bang Lulu 3:43
- 4 Moonshine 4:40
- 5 Jackson 3:46
- 6 Mean Ol' Wind Died Down 4:00

- 7 How I Wish My Train Would Come 4:32
- 8 Ain't No Grave (featuring Mavis Staples) 3:51
- 9 Let It Roll 4:02
10. My Leavin' 2:25

Volume II

1. Horseshoe (Reprise) 3:01
2. Highwater (Soldier) 3:06
3. And It Hurts 3:58
4. Storm 4:38
5. Mojo, Mojo 3:33
6. Ol' Cannonball 2:44
7. Devilment 3:21
8. Blow Out 1:59
9. Mayor Langford Birmingham Blues 2:49
10. Shake (Yo Mama) 3:19
11. Horseshoe 3:46

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