

JOE K. WALSH

borderland

JOEKWALSH.COM

RELEASE DATE:
SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

1	RED SKIES	3:03
2	NEVER MORE WILL ROAM ...	3:34
3	CUMBERLAND GAP	3:44
4	PINE TREE WALTZ	3:30
5	THE BERRY'S WALK OUT	3:59
6	INNISFREE	3:29
7	THE BEE-LOUD GLADE	2:34
8	THERE BUT FOR FORTUNE ...	2:59
9	POGO BIG	3:43
10	THE STREAM	3:46
11	CLOSER	3:14

Roots music isn't made in a vacuum. It's the creation of a community, of a circle of friends, of a teacher and a student. It's something to be passed back and forth to be treasured. As an acclaimed master of American roots music, mandolinist and songwriter **JOE K. WALSH** knows this better than most. He's toured with countless artists, collaborated with other master musicians like **Darol Anger** and the **Gibson Brothers**, founded progressive stringband **Joy Kills Sorrow** in the early 2000s, and is currently on faculty at the prestigious **Berklee College of Music**. His new album, **BORDERLAND**, is an exercise in subtlety and careful creation. Turning through songs he wrote, or setting the words of Yeats to music, and picking out instrumental tunes of his own creation, Walsh plays and sings with the kind of ease that comes from years of practice and creation. The touch of sawdust in his vocals, or the buzz of the mandolin strings may hint at the deep rural roots of this music, but what he's creating now is a new kind of tradition. His first inspiration came as a teenager when he heard David Grisman, and then again when first hearing Del McCoury. The music he heard at that young age opened a window to new harmonic possibilities, and started Walsh exploring how to create new American roots music. What's surprising then is that his new album is no act of wild fusion. Instead, it's a joyful exploration of just why he loves this old music so much in the first place. With mastery comes restraint. With nothing left to prove, Walsh has dived deeper into the tradition, seeking to craft new music from old roots.

Borderland brings together **Joe K. Walsh's** frequent collaborators like seminal old-time fiddler **BRUCE MOLSKY**, innovative bluegrass guitarist **COURTNEY HARTMAN** (of Della Mae), in-demand fiddler **BRITTANY HAAS** (of Dave Rawlings Machine), blazing bluegrass banjo player **GABE HIRSHFELD** (of The Lonely Heartstring Band), and eclectic bassist **KARL DOTY**. In creating the album, he pulled together these close friends for a series of acoustic adventures through original and traditional songs and tunes, reveling not in the kind of flashy showmanship one might associate with Walsh's bluegrass roots, but in a sense of great camaraderie and deliberate craft. You can hear this on "Never More Will Roam," as each instrument circles the other in easy counterpoint while Walsh's voice floats above, a keening edge to his vocals. Or in "Innisfree," as Walsh cleverly sets a famed poem from William Butler Yeats in a verdant Appalachian setting. Of all the tracks, "Red Skies" hews closest to Walsh's bluegrass roots, but even here he's playing with the form, subverting the idiom just a little bit. **Borderland** is the kind of album that's constantly striving to move forward, to find new paths through the thickets of our shared heritage.



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