

COALITION
INDEPENDENT
MUSIC
STORES

HOMEGROWN



1 GUY CLARK SONGS AND STORIES (DUALTONE)

At the tail end of his performance of "L.A. Freeway," master songwriter **Guy Clark** pauses to share a memory from that time decades ago, about a landlord and a grapefruit tree that might have added to the final push to say, "Adios to all this concrete. Gonna get me some dirt road back street." It's the kind of story you want to hear from a legend like **Clark** and on the live album **Songs And Stories**. Not only are there the beloved songs, "The Randall Knife," "The Cape," "Homegrown Tomatoes," and "Stuff That Works," but also the essential asides and insights that can only be experienced from a seat in the audience. The album was recorded at the Belcourt Theatre in Nashville, **Clark** warmly surrounded by his musical family. It's a comfortable atmosphere that feels like a peek into a 3am guitar pull at The Driskill Hotel.



2 LYDIA LOVELESS INDESTRUCTIBLE MACHINE BLOODSHOT

Two thirds of **Indestructible Machine** contains explicit lyrics. As the one penning the lyrics is but a twenty-one year old, full of piss and vinegar, that seems fitting. She's been described as a cross between Neko Case and Exene Cervenka, but **Lydia Loveless** could even be described as the spawn of Carla Bozulich (Geraldine Fibbers/Evangelista) and Belinda Carlisle (the Go-Gos.) From someone who grew up in the culture of a country bar (her father ran one), you'd expect a sweet rehashing of old country songs, but **Loveless** saw the other side of the stage door, and sings with the sort of self-effacing cynicism of someone who's been on the road for as long as Lucinda Williams. **Loveless** sounds like a young woman learning all her lessons the hard way, as she proclaims in "Learn to Say No:" "I can't go anywhere without being three sheets..."



3 MERLE HAGGARD WORKING IN TENNESSEE VANGUARD

When you find **Haggard's** road-worn face staring at you from the bins, don't shy away in fear of a sobbing, end of the road unloading baggage from his rowdy life. Instead of drowning his sorrows and staggering into the sunset, **Haggard** is more apt to get in a few good punches at the honchos in Nashville, as he does on "Too Much Boogie Woogie." The album rolls out with the title track, playful, strong, and grounded in the traditions from which **Haggard** sprang. As with his 2010 recording, **Working in Tennessee** was produced by **Haggard** alongside Lou Hadley, allowing him to give intimate touches to a couple of sobering Johnny Cash songs, "Cocaine Blues" and "Jackson," the latter of which features a growling Lucinda-like appearance by **Haggard's** wife, Theresa. **Haggard's** fifty plus years in music have only fortified his spirit, as reflected in this energetic, bold romp.



4 DALE WATSON THE SUN SESSIONS RED HOUSE RECORDS

Releasing a **Sun Sessions** album is a sure sign that something went right in your music career. Austin Music Hall of Famer **Dale Watson**, who has repeatedly graced the stage of the Grand Ole Opry, has taken rightful turn in front of the golden microphone. You can hear Johnny Cash's ghost in **Watson's** warbling baritone, and the production sounds as though the late, great Sam Phillips was still behind the board. Touted as a country music maverick, **Dale Watson's** music rails against the gluttonous Nash-Vegas tune slot machines, reminding us country's roots are just a stone's throw from the rock & roll of Sun Studio. **The Sun Sessions** is an appropriate follow up to **Watson's** self-produced 2010 release, **Carryin' On**. Tracks like "Ponder Why I Ponder Why" and "The Hand of Jesus" show **Watson's** desire to tribute what it is he thinks country music lacks: A soul.



5 JOHNNY CASH BOOTLEG 3: LIVE AROUND THE WORLD LEGACY

This is a comprehensive collection from bootlegged concerts for the avid fan of **The Man in Black**. Focusing on the formative years of his career, this compilation of tracks includes archival performances between 1956 ("Get Rhythm," "So Doggone Lonesome," and "I Walk the Line" and 1979 ("Ghost) Riders in the Sky".) Also included are some of **Cash's** performances from the 1964 Newport Folk Festival, including "Don't Think Twice, It's Alright," made arguably more famous by another 1964 NFF performer, Bob Dylan. **Cash** was a notorious personality who performed at some of the country's some equally notorious venues. This collection includes eight tracks from the White House, one of them being a performance of "The Old Account" with wife June Carter Cash. One has to wonder how long the lyrics to this particular song were rolling around in President Nixon's head. "Yes the old account was settled long ago..."

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