

ACOUSTIC GUITAR

OCTOBER 2012

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RODNEY CROWELL
"Hungry for Home"

TRADITIONAL "Sometimes I
Feel Like a Motherless Child"

Rodney Crowell
On Collaborating with
Author MARY KARR

Win a
RainSong
Guitar
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**GEAR
REVIEWS**

COMPOSITE
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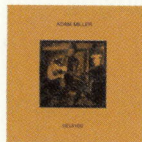
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ACOUSTICGUITAR.COM

Lonely in Louisville," he's at the edge of string band minimalism; and on the Beatles medley that serves as the album's centerpiece, he sweetly straddles pop and chamber folk. He's joined by Joy Kills Sorrow on one cut, the Infamous Stringdusters on another, and Tim O'Brien on a third, taking each session as an opportunity to stretch out in a new direction, and emerging with an album that's smart, melodic, and immensely engaging throughout. (Native and Fine) —KENNY BERKOWITZ



Adam Miller

Delayed

Melding funk, blues, and jazz into solo fingerstyle acoustic

guitar is an improbable feat, but Australian Adam Miller makes it seem not only easy but inevitable. What holds this varied collection of original compositions together is a relentless propulsive groove that is downright danceable. Miller amply displays the qualities that earned him an Australian fingerstyle championship and that are making him an international up-and-comer: pristine clarity of tone, a virtuoso technique that tosses up absurdly fast legato runs and rapid-fire pull-offs, as well as an ability to play a complex bass line and melody simultaneously (which he attributes to guitarist Charlie Hunter). "Straight Forward" is anything but—it lays out a bluesy melody and then veers off into exuberant improvisational tangents—while the mesmerizing title track lays a simple melody over a repeated motif, giving it an ethereal, otherworldly vibe. Yet Miller's music is as refined as it is unbridled. On slower pieces such as "Wedding Speech" (replete with fun chimes and intricate taps) and "Last Kiss," his emphasis on melody and a sumptuous range of textures and colors is most apparent. There's nothing held back or last-minute about *Delayed*, except perhaps the wider recognition Miller deserves. But with such a masterful accomplishment, that won't be long in coming. (adamiller.com.au)

—CÉLINE KEATING

EDITORS' PICKS



DAN GABEL, editorial director:

I Draw Slow,

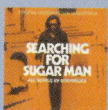
Redhills



MARK SMITH, managing editor:

Old Crow Medicine Show,

Carry Me Back



DAN APCZYNSKI, digital content

developer:

Rodriguez,

Searching for Sugar Man



Mindy Smith

Mindy Smith

Recorded in Nashville, Tennessee, Mindy Smith's fifth studio album picks up where *Stupid Love* (2009) left off, navigating a troubled path between dream and disappointment, God and the devil, and Long Island country and Nashville pop. These 11 new songs, all written or co-written by Smith, range from uplifting gospel ("Closer") to wailing blues ("Don't Mind Me") to gentle swing ("Cure for Love") to folk-rock ("Pretending the Stars") to deep country ("When You're Walking on My Grave") to singer-songwriter confessional ("If I"), each

astonishing in its honesty. The melodies are smartly, sharply etched and the singing passionate, with Smith's fearless, keening soprano sounding stronger and bluer than ever before and performances by Dan Dugmore on pedal steel, Joe Pisapia on electric guitar, and Bryan Sutton on acoustic guitar that closely match her mood from one heartbreak to the next. The surfaces on *Mindy Smith* shimmer in the best pop tradition: steel strings ring gloriously, rhythms snap, and guitar solos soar. But there's no avoiding the pain underneath, the tensile strength that holds these songs together, and the intelligence that makes the album so rewarding. (Giant Leap) —KENNY BERKOWITZ

KELLY JOE PHELPS

Digging up the ground he broke on "**Roll Away The Stone**," **Kelly Joe Phelps** returns, slide guitar once again in hand, to his **blues/gospel journey** toward **mercy, peace** and **salvation**.

BROTHER SINNER & THE WHALE
Released worldwide on August 21

"I'm talking about a feeling, a smoky, lonesome, painful - yet somehow comforting groove that lets you know that you are not alone - even when you're blue. Play on brother."
— Steve Earle

For info on this and other zesty Black Hen recordings, visit www.blackhenmusic.com