

# RED HOUSE RECORDS

Publicity: Ellen Stanley • promotions@redhousetrecords.com • (651) 644-4161



## dave carter & tracy grammer little blue egg

RHR-CD-251 • Release Date: February 14, 2012

**11 stunning never before released recordings!**

“In any rational universe, Carter & Grammer would be spoken of in the same terms as Bob Dylan and John Lennon.” -**Dirty Linen**



**Red House Records** is pleased to announce the February 14, 2012 release of *Little Blue Egg*, a collection of eleven intimate, long-lost recordings by **Tracy Grammer** and the late great **Dave Carter**.

Recorded in their home studios between 1997 and 2002, the album offers a glimpse into the duo's musical process. Fully fleshed-out folk and Americana songs left off of other albums find a home alongside intimate, late-night living room recordings, reference tracks for multi-artist collaborations and rare demos produced for **Joan Baez's** consideration. A fan of Dave & Tracy's music, Baez has performed several of Carter's songs along with such artists as **Mary Chapin Carpenter**, **Chris Smither** and **Lucy Kaplansky**.

Grammer discovered the tracks for *Little Blue Egg* during an emergency archiving project in the summer of 2010, a full eight years after Carter's death. Rescuing the original ADAT tapes from a moldy basement where they were stored, she happily discovered that the tapes were in pristine condition. As she digitized the tapes in real-time, Tracy pored over old studio notes about the recordings.

“Tears flowed, I laughed out loud, memories flooded back,” Grammer remembers. “It felt like a miracle to hear Dave's voice -- and our voices, together -- singing old songs that sounded new again, along with others I had forgotten about entirely.”

From a total of about 30 tapes, Grammer compiled 16 songs worth of release -- several of which had never before been published. She spent two days in Portland, Oregon that fall mixing the songs with **Bob Stark** at **Kung Fu Bakery Recording Studio**, which has produced recordings for such big-name acts as **The Decemberists** and **The Shins**. After a brief re-mixing session, an 11-song collection was brought to **Grammy-winning** indie folk label Red House Records.

“We've all been big Dave & Tracy fans for many years,” Red House president Eric Peltoniemi says. “I was so thrilled when Tracy sent us these songs. Listening to them, it's almost like Dave Carter hasn't quite left us.”

Dave Carter's voice comes like a ghost from beyond, delivering earnest, heartbreaking performances and reminders of the magical alchemy this duo shares, evident in their playful cover of the **Woody Guthrie/Billy Bragg** song “**Way Over Yonder in the Minor Key**.” From the lovelorn notes of the album's opener “**Better Way**” to the Americana drive of the award-winning “**Hard Edge of Livin**” and the tender compassion of “**Amazon**,” *Little Blue Egg* is a stand-out among Dave & Tracy's recordings for its acoustic simplicity and its impressive lyrical depth. Literary, intelligent, by turns mystical and whimsical, *Little Blue Egg* is a must-have for any music fan.

In support of this new album, Tracy Grammer will be showcasing at the 2012 International Folk Alliance Conference in Memphis and will be touring across North America. For her full schedule, please visit [www.tracygrammer.com](http://www.tracygrammer.com) or [www.redhousetrecords.com](http://www.redhousetrecords.com).

---

Red House Records Contact: Ellen Stanley • promotions@redhousetrecords.com • (651) 644-4161  
[www.redhousetrecords.com](http://www.redhousetrecords.com)

## THE DAVE CARTER & TRACY GRAMMER STORY

Their story begins like something you'd read on the back pages of the secret scrolls of folk music destiny:

Mystical dreamer, mathematician, tai chi practitioner, piano teacher, computer programmer, guitar picker and wandering cowboy sage from Texas/Oklahoma seeks poetry-loving, type A ex-head cheerleader, graphic designer, classically trained violinist and karaoke queen with Florida roots and California cool for musical adventures, journeys of the heart, and the betterment of the human condition...



**Tracy Grammer** saw **Dave Carter** perform three songs at a songwriter's showcase shortly after she moved to Portland, Oregon in 1996. "Here were stories that could stand alone as poetry, sung with compassion, intelligence, and a hint of Texas twang," Grammer says. "I knew instantly that I was in the presence of greatness; I knew I had received my calling in life." They met on their way out the door and by late 1997 had entered into a mutual "marriage in music."

Their unique strengths and diverse backgrounds came together in powerful synergy. Carter conjured mystical, romantic, true fictions while Grammer complemented his expert guitar, banjo, and voice with beautifully intoned violin, mandolin and emotionally potent vocals. Building on Carter's impressive songwriting wins at **Kerrville**, **Wildflower** and **Napa Valley**, the duo recorded their first album, **When I Go**, in Grammer's kitchen. The simple, no-frills recording garnered the unknown duo a full-page feature article in the *Los Angeles Times*, naming Carter "a major lyrical talent" and declaring their self-released album a "discovery of the year."

The duo signed to Massachusetts-based label **Signature Sounds** in 2000 and released two chart-topping albums of what they called "postmodern, mythic American folk music." In addition to heavy airplay across AAA, Americana and folk radio stations, the duo was highly celebrated by the press. The *Boston Globe* declared that "If the voice of modern folk is changing - it is going to sound a lot like Dave Carter and Tracy Grammer." The flood of praise resulted in a full calendar of concert dates and an invitation to join folk icon **Joan Baez** on her spring 2002 east coast tour as both featured artists and band members. Grammer found herself in the spotlight as the instrumental soloist and backing vocalist, while Carter's compositions were being performed alongside songs by **Bob Dylan**, **Townes Van Zandt**, **Merle Haggard** and **Steve Earle** -- an incredible endorsement by one of the foremost curators and interpreters of modern American songwriting.

### DISCOGRAPHY

Dave Carter & Tracy Grammer  
**When I Go** (1998)  
**Tanglewood Tree** (Signature Sounds, 2000)  
**Drum Hat Buddha** (Signature Sounds, 2001)  
**Seven Is the Number** (Tracy Grammer Music, 2006)  
**American Noel** (Signature Sounds, 2008)  
**Little Blue Egg** (Red House Records, 2012)

Tracy Grammer  
**The Verdant Mile** (Tracy Grammer Music, 2004)  
**Flower of Avalon** (Signature Sounds, 2005)  
**Book of Sparrows** (Tracy Grammer Music, 2007)

Then, on the morning of Friday, July 19, in a room at the duo's favorite hotel in Hadley, Massachusetts, Carter returned from a run complaining of chest pains. Soon thereafter, he died in Grammer's arms from a massive heart attack, just three weeks shy of his 50th birthday.

Grammer embraced the musical community's collective loss, anchoring musical tributes at the **Philadelphia Folk Festival**, the **Falcon Ridge Folk Festival** (which continues to honor Carter annually) and the official Portland memorial tribute, which featured **Joan Baez**, **Richard Shindell** and others.

Grammer continues to perform Carter's songs and has produced three solo and two duo albums since Carter's death, including the critically acclaimed tribute CD *Flower of Avalon* with **John Jennings** as co-

producer and **Mary Chapin Carpenter** contributing backing vocals and liner notes. In 2012 **Red House Records** releases *Little Blue Egg*, an album of previously-unreleased Dave & Tracy recordings. The CD includes eleven tracks, with five additional songs to be released throughout 2012 as part of a year-long celebration to mark the 10th anniversary of Carter's death and what would have been his 60th birthday.

**The Dave Carter Legacy Project** (DCLP) was created by **Folk Alliance International** in December, 2011 with a generous grant from the **E. Rhoda Shaten Foundation**. The mission of the DCLP is to celebrate, preserve, and promote Dave Carter's music in perpetuity; Tracy Grammer is Director. Several projects and appearances are planned for this special anniversary year. For more information about the DCLP, please write: [dclp@tracygrammer.com](mailto:dclp@tracygrammer.com)