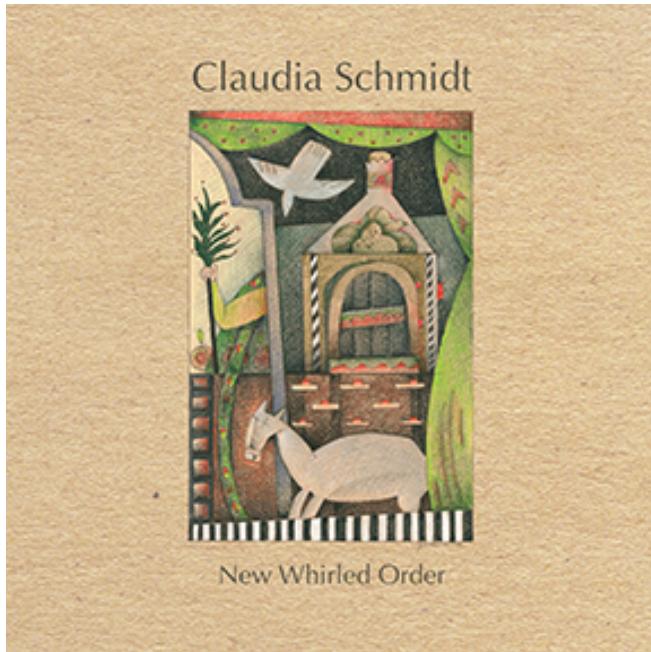


RED HOUSE RECORDS

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Claudia Schmidt

New Whirled Order

(RHR-CD-275 • Release Date: March 4, 2014)

Schmidt returns to Red House Records to release her definitive studio album

New Whirled Order heralds the happy return of legacy artist **Claudia Schmidt** to her former label, Red House Records. The project is her first studio album for the Grammy-winning indie label since 2000. Supported by master jazz guitarist **Dean Magraw** and an ensemble of other great players, the album is chock full of stand-out tracks and is her most definitive collection to date. One of Red House's keystone artists in its early years, Schmidt is a

stunning chanteuse with a dazzling multi-octave voice. She seamlessly blends folk and jazz idioms into a genre all her own, much as Nina Simone did in her day. A gifted songwriter, she is also an accomplished 12-string guitarist and mountain dulcimer player, something she exhibits over and over again on this wonderfully produced, fully realized, and beautifully packaged release. A fan said it best after seeing Claudia perform recently, "*You are a shaper of space and time.*"

The album marks a return to the national spotlight for Claudia. As her career was ascending and she was easily selling out large theaters, she turned her back on the music business to open a bed and breakfast with her husband on a small island in the middle of Lake Michigan. This detour lasted over 10 years. But Claudia always kept music as a close companion, continuing to write and record but in a smaller, grassroots way. When the marriage ended, she moved to Minneapolis, MN and began a creative renaissance and new chapter in her life that continues to blossom, resulting in *New Whirled Order*.

Claudia says that these songs were inspired by lines from a poem in **Michael Leunig's** book *A Common Prayer* -- "There are only two feelings: love and fear."

"I've never sung so unabashedly about love; fear was never a problem!" she says. "While I did not embark on this project with a theme in mind, it is clearly woven through all the songs on *New Whirled Order*, I was ready to go that route at this point in my life."

"comes at you straight from the shoulder, letting the listener feel the full impact of sheer delivery"

AllAboutJazz.com

"vocals that will thrill you"

All Music

"Schmidt's shows are a lot like falling in love...you know you'll never be the same again."

San Francisco Bay Guardian

"when Claudia sings a song it stays sung"

Garrison Keillor



Claudia Schmidt
Red House Records Artist – Photograph by Larry Marcus

An artist of deep feeling and exhilarating talent, Schmidt's rich poetry and playful humor have made her a formidable live performer.

"The best thing is a live concert, energies mingling, that arc of connection, the common space and experience," she says. "I feel profoundly lucky to have spent so much of my life in that environment. I hope people keep wanting to come and share that experience."

www.redhouserecords.com.

BIOGRAPHY

Claudia Schmidt is a powerful vocalist and adventurous artist, who combines lively folk, jazz and blues with rich poetry and playful humor. Hailing from Michigan, she knew at a young age that she was destined to be a singer. Performing in numerous choirs throughout her youth, Claudia soon pursued a professional career while in Chicago, leading her to Wisconsin and Minnesota, where she was a frequent guest on the early days of *A Prairie Home Companion*. Forty years and 16 albums later, Claudia continues to perform on the road to her

From her soaring, acrobatic vocals on the opening song (the mountain-folk flavored "Already") to the sultry lounge pop of "Dawn Star" and the Joni Mitchell-esque "Coward in the Face of Love," Schmidt dazzles vocally with her emotional, effortless delivery. "My Defenses Are Down" is a noir-ish, smoky jazz/blues number where wraps her vocal around the slinky guitar lines. Her first-ever polka, the Brechtian "Strong Woman has a Bad Day," features the wry refrain, "whatever doesn't kill you makes you wish that you were dead."

Another life milestone was losing her beloved mother in 2013. She closes the album with two spare, haunting songs dedicated to her mother: the Celtic lament "Jane's Gone," and the round, "Jane's A Round."

"I wasn't sure if I made it up or if I was channeling an ancient Irish tune," she says of "Jane's Gone." I wrote it a few weeks before my mom's memorial and she was of Irish ancestry, hence the name."

"Jane's A Round" is an a cappella round for four voices. "I was driving home from seeing my dad right after my mom's death, and suddenly I was singing the line, which is the whole song!" she says. "I tried it as a round that night at a concert. It was clearly a gift from my mom. Sally Rogers, her husband Howie and our friend Jeff Davis helped me realize that form on the recording. It feels perfect, more of a dance than a dirge."

loyal legions of fans across the country. Mixing folk, jazz, traditional ballads and breathtaking originals, there's not a style she can't master. Claudia's incredible voice and charismatic stage presence make her a marvel in concert.

Claudia has recorded 16 of her own albums, including five on **Red House Records** and two with singer-songwriter **Sally Rogers**. She was also featured in **Gales of November**, a musical theater piece written by **Eric Peltoniemi** and playwright **Steven Dietz** featuring **Prudence Johnson, Ruth MacKenzie, Peter Ostroushko, Dan Chouinard and Jeff Wilkomm**.

Now living in Minneapolis, she released a retrospective, **Bend in the River: Collected Songs**, in 2012, a fun, wide-ranging collection of her finest Red House material.

With the 2014 release of a new studio album, **New Whirled Order**, Claudia returns to the Red House Records fold for her first new album since 2000. With an infectious energy and joy, she continues to delight audiences with her spectacular vocals and instrumental prowess. Tour dates include a stop at the **2014 Folk Alliance Festival** and national US dates.

Claudia is currently at work on a musical based on the final flight of Amelia Earhart as well as a book of poetry. For more about Claudia and her tour schedule, please visit www.claudiaschmidt.com or www.redhouserrecords.com.

RED HOUSE DISCOGRAPHY

New Whirled Order - 2014

Bend in the River: Collected Songs - 2012

Wings of Wonder - 2000

It Looks Fine From Here - 1994

While We Live (with Sally Rogers) - 1991

Essential Tension - 1991

Big Earful - 1987

TOUR DATES:

TH 1/30	Traverse City, MI - Jazz at the Cambria w/Jeff Haas Trio
SA 2/01	Kalamazoo, MI - People's Church Concert Series
SA 2/08	St. Paul, MN - O'Shaughnessy Aud., College of St. Catherine's - Valentine's Day show w/Kling, Johnson, Chouinard, Perrin, and Stauffer, 1 pm
SA 3/08	Hayward, WI - Park Theater WOJB concert CD release w/Dean Magraw
SA 3/22	Pawtucket, RI - Stone Soup show at St. Paul's Church