

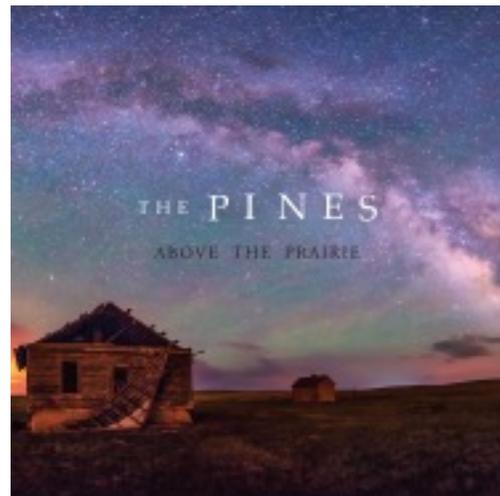
RED HOUSE RECORDS

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THE PINES MELD SOUNDSCAPES WITH LANDSCAPES ON 'ABOVE THE PRAIRIE,' OUT FEB 5 ON RED HOUSE RECORDS RHR-CD-291 • Release Date: February 5, 2016

"At times, you're asked to consider what Radiohead might sound like if driven by wood and steel rather than ones and zeros." - *PopMatters*



Called “quietly gripping” by legendary rock journalist David Fricke (*Rolling Stone*), Minneapolis-based **The Pines** sound like a Brian Eno for the Great Plains. Their native Midwest is their muse, and their songs explore the vast expanses around and above them, exploring the isolated farms and small towns of the plains and the array of stars that dot the night sky. With *Above the Prairie*, the trio of **David Huckfelt** and brothers **Benson** and **Alex Ramsey** have crafted their most expansive album to date, melding their lush, layered sound with vivid, imagistic lyrics that celebrate the landscapes and history that gave birth to it. Captured quickly in the studio, the compositions and arrangements attest to their creators’ keen eyes for detail and framing. They blend celestial, ethereal atmospherics with rich, warm vocals and earthy acoustic instruments to create gripping, vivid music.

Finding somewhere to feel at home is a recurring theme on the record. On “Where Something Wild Still Grows,” Huckfelt longs for a place “through the trees, past the city, beyond the glow” where he can be at ease, while “Sleepy Hollow” finds Ramsey contemplating our treatment of each other and our planet as he looks into the abyss of the night sky, and “Come What Is” (which features Ryan Young of Trampled By Turtles on fiddle) tries to find contentment in the present moment. A highlight is a haunting guest appearance by the late **Native American legend John Trudell** on the album closer, “Time Dreams.”

“People say you can’t step in the same river twice,” says Huckfelt, “but you can’t even step in the same river once, because change is the only constant. Home isn’t the same home you remember, and you don’t get a minute to catch your breath to think about it.”

Above the Prairie is also a celebration of the community and history that gave birth to it. On “Here,” the band is joined by Iowa friends and family, including **Greg Brown**, **Iris DeMent**, **Pieta Brown**, and **Ramsey patriarch Bo Ramsey**, who co-produced the LP with The Pines. With a beauty equally ominous and tender, The Pines have provided a sonic backdrop to the thin veil that separates our home on the land and our home in the cosmos.

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The Pines have shared the stage with everyone from **Arcade Fire** and **Bon Iver** to **Mavis Staples** and **The Holmes Brothers**. Their 2012 LP 'Dark So Gold' was named #3 best album of the decade by the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, and called "a soundtrack of American Gothic intensity" and "a stunner of an album" by *Vintage Guitar Magazine*. For tour dates and more information go to: <http://thepinesmusic.com/>

PRAISE FOR THE PINES:

"Reminiscent of Ryan Adams, Alpha Rev and even some latter-day Bob Dylan, the pride of Minneapolis goes full-bore reflective in a record that is deep in mood and lyric alike."

- *The Washington Times*

"simply and eloquently stated sonic poetry... the real deal." - Acoustic Guitar

"Like a midnight blizzard, the songs of the Pines are dark, ominous and strangely hypnotic." - Boston Globe

"The sparse and haunting mood of the album washes over you like an early morning fog...the poetic lyrics also gently insinuate themselves with every spin." - EXCLAIM!

"The Pines make music that perfectly evokes the wide open skies of the Midwestern plains."
- WNYC

"Stunning to say the least, but dazzling overall." - No Depression

"Hits so close to the gut that it reminds us that they are truly a singular band."
- The Current, Minnesota Public Radio

"It would be hard to imagine an album more haunting and beguiling than this fifth opus by The Pines." - Blurt, 4 out of 5 stars

"Excellent... 'Above The Prairie' positions The Pines as alt-country's answer to The War on Drugs—heartland music with escapist ambitions." - INDY Week

"The charm of 'Above The Prairie' is that it sets a mood, one that's ideal for twilight or the early hours of evening just after the sun has set." - AllMusic

"'Above The Prairie' is an absolute dream." - Mother Church Pew

"The Pines create enough spaces in their music for your mind to wander into lots of places. Theirs is a sound like no other." - Elmore

