

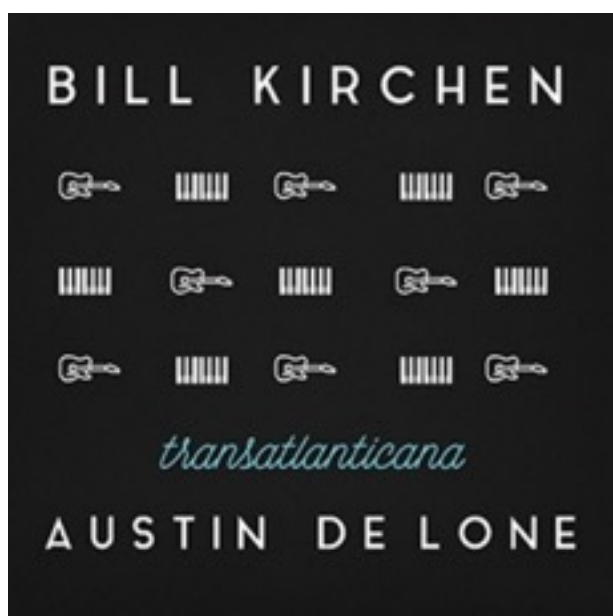
RED HOUSE RECORDS

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BILL KIRCHEN & AUSTIN DE LONE *Transatlantica*

New Studio Album Unites the Titan of the Telecaster with the Godfather of Pub Rock
Recorded in Austin, TX and London, UK with an all star cast
Tour and festival dates announced including **Hardly Strictly Bluegrass 2016**
(August 26, 2016; Red House Records)



Bill Kirchen and **Austin de Lone** team up for a hands-across-the-Atlantic collection with their new studio album, *Transatlantica*, out on August 26, 2016 on Red House Records. This long-overdue release unites the pioneers of two major musical movements: Kirchen co-founded the original “Americana” band, **Commander Cody and his Lost Planet Airmen**, and his trademark Telecaster licks drove their hit “Hot Rod Lincoln” into the Top 10 in 1972. De Lone dropped out of Harvard to start **Eggs Over Easy**, moving to London and recording with Jimi Hendrix’s producer/manager and The Animals’ bass player Chas Chandler in 1970. The Eggs are the progenitors of British pub rock, the first link in the chain to punk rock, new wave and beyond.

Backed by both their all-star British and American bands, *Transatlantica* finds Kirchen and de Lone trading songwriting credits and lead vocals on this soulful and rocking collection. They kick it off with the

timely “**Hounds of the Bakersfield**,” a tribute to the late Merle Haggard and the Bakersfield, CA sound.

Kirchen and de Lone cut the album in Austin and London, capturing on disc the best of their 30-year collaboration. Kirchen is Austin-based; de Lone is in the San Francisco Bay Area, but both artists have longtime ties with the UK scene: Kirchen has toured as a guitarist with **Nick Lowe** and put out three albums on UK label Proper Records; de Lone has toured as keyboard player for Lowe and **Elvis Costello** and put out his first solo album on UK label Demon Records.

They first collaborated in the mid-1970s, writing together as The Moonlighters: “We sent Nick Lowe a bunch of songs for Rockpile, but unbeknownst to us they had decided to break up,” Kirchen says. What de Lone got back was a letter from Lowe that began, “Dear hero o’ mine. There’s not many of us left...” Lowe then offered to produce them in London, and the resulting Moonlighters album, *Rush Hour*, came out in 1983 on the Edsel label. Since then, Bill and Austin have teamed up with Lowe and Costello many times: de Lone has worked with Lowe, **Paul Carrack** and Costello on several tours and Kirchen held the guitar chair for Lowe’s critically acclaimed *Impossible Bird* disc and tour. In 2008, Costello borrowed the title cut from Kirchen’s album *Hammer Of The Honky-Tonk Gods* for his band

name at the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival in San Francisco featuring de Lone, Kirchen, **Emmylou Harris, Gillian Welsh and Jim Lauderdale.**

The songs of *Transatlantica* represent the core elements of Americana music – R&B, country, rock and even a gospel track. **Butch Hancock** duets his song “Oxblood” with Kirchen. It’s a meaty slice of Texas boogie recorded with the Austin contingent. “I guess they used to color concrete with ox blood; I thought it was just an old shoe polish color” says Kirchen.

Kirchen contributes “Wine, Wine, Wine”, quintessential Commander Cody, straight-up country sad from their first sessions in Ann Arbor ’67. (Fun fact: Bill and Iggy Pop graduated same year, same class from Ann Arbor High School.)

“Let’s Rock” is a vintage de Lone/Kirchen co-write featuring an easy, chugging groove and de Lone’s tasteful piano work.

“Somebody’s Goin’ Home” is a Blackie Farrell/Kirchen co-write. “I saw the Staple Singers for the first time in 1964 at the Newport Folk Festival, then had to wait 50 years ’til I saw Mavis again, when we both performed at the Salmon Arms Fest in Canada,” Kirchen recalls. “It is a nod to that great family, written as a gospel song without ‘The Gospel.’” Its also a poignant look at the certainty and mysteries of loss, in true gospel style.

De Lone contributes “Warm and Tender Love,” a track that showcases his deep love and understanding of rhythm and blues. “I loved all the great Memphis soul ballads, and all the fantastic singing that Percy Sledge did, so simple and so sweet.” It’s an understated, soulful vocal performance, intimate and personal.

“Already Walking” is a bittersweet pop song written by de Lone and his daughter Caroline de Lone, who sings harmony on the track’s catchy chorus. It’s about moving on and dealing with hard times, being “on the way back” from a loss.

Their ringing, rockified version of Bob Dylan’s “The Times They are A-Changin’” closes down the album with a bang -- it’s an anthemic, fresh take on a song you’ve heard a thousand times and somehow these guys infuse it with a singular power that comes from crazy talent, years spent playing together and a deep love of Dylan.

Kirchen: “I first saw him [Dylan] at my high school in Ann Arbor in ’63, then Newport Folk Festival in ’64 where he debuted “Mr. Tambourine Man.” I went to Newport the next year and saw him ‘go electric’. I loved it. What I saw those two years at Newport, and all the wild music that came through Ann Arbor and Detroit pretty much ruined me for normal work.”

Spirited and served up with wit and humor, *Transatlantica* is a gem — a ringside seat to these transatlantic sessions by a group of like-minded, top-of-their-game players enjoying each other’s musical company.

Cast of characters: **Gurf Morlix, Butch Hancock, Rick Richards, David Carroll, Sarah Brown, Louise Kirchen (representing Texas); Bobby Black, Paul Revelli, Michael Godwin, André Moran and Caroline de Lone (representing California) and Paul “Bassman” Riley and Malcolm Mills (representing the UK).**

Bill Kirchen and his band as well as Bill and Audie de Lone will be touring throughout 2016. For complete tour and festival dates go to <http://www.billkirchen.com>.

BILL KIRCHEN & AUSTIN DE LONE "TRANSATLANTICANA" SONG BY SONG

1. HOUNDS OF THE BAKERSFIELD

Blackie Farrell and I wrote this tribute song to Merle, not guessing he would be gone a month after it was cut. The very first electric country music I found in the mid-60s was by Merle, Buck and Red Simpson, all stars of the Bakersfield country scene. The sound and vibe of those Capitol records still knocks me out, and that's exactly why I got a Telecaster. We cut this with the UK crew: Paul Bassman Riley on bass (Chili Willy, plus we played together in Nick Lowe's band) and Malcolm Mills on drums. Austin of course appears on all songs no matter the longitude. Love this song, but not happy about living in a world with no Merle. BK

2. WINE WINE WINE

One of my favorites from the very first Commander Cody/Billy C songwriting session in Ann Arbor, MI, 1967. Recorded this one in the UK, then out to California to get steel guitar master Bobby Black's part. Bobby had over 20 mind-boggling years with the the who's who of country before 1972, at which time he joined Commander Cody and his Lost Planet Airmen and became our musical adult supervision. BK

3. LET'S ROCK

Bill and I wrote this one as a guitar boogie whilst serving under the fearless leadership of Commander Cody in 1985, and it was the title track of an album he released in 1986. AD

4. OXBLOOD

Butch Hancock is one of my favorite writers ever, period. He sang this to me while we were working at a songwriters camp, and I could not wait to learn it myself. Butch and I sang it nose-to-nose at the Texas sessions. For this side of the pond we have David Carroll (Ray Price, Billy Joe Shaver) on bass and Rick Richards (Joe Walsh, Ray Wylie Hubbard) on drums. Gurf Morlix was on board, and he cut the killer guitar solo, live. One take. So I guess they used to color concrete with that ox blood. And here I thought it was just an old shoe polish color. BK

5. THINK IT OVER

I got on to Swamp Pop great Jimmy Donnelly's Think It Over many years ago, and finally got to play it with Doug Sahm in the 90s. David Carroll (bass player on the Texas sessions) and I played on Doug's very last record, and later on his last gig on Oct 29, 1999. Doug's a guy we should never forget. BK

6. WARM AND TENDER LOVE

Loved all the great Memphis soul ballads, and all the fantastic singing that Percy Sledge did, so simple and so sweet. If you ever get a chance to hear the great country album he did don't miss it — pure soul! AD

7. NO NEED FOR KNOCKIN'

So glad we didn't call this one "Walk Right In"! All about being open and ready to welcome friends no matter what condition their condition is in. AD

8. ALL TORE UP

True love follows a winding, blinding and burning path, but no matter how high or low, that girl never fails to tear me up! AD

9. ALREADY WALKING

Wrote this one with the help of my daughter Caroline, in the midst of a daunting and tragic year which saw sadness and hardships coming at us from all directions. It is hard to sing all the way through, but still thrills. AD

10. BACK IN THE DAY

My wife of 40-plus years, Louise Kirchen, wrote this reflection at our home in Maryland while I was off at the memorial for Lance Dickerson. Lance was the first and so far the only Lost Planet Airmen to fall from the sky. Louise got to Berkeley California in '63 and knows whereof she speaks. Texas was in the house for this track. BK

11. SOMEBODY'S GOIN' HOME

I saw the Staple Singers for the first time in 1964 at the Newport Folk Festival, then waited 50 years 'til I saw Mavis again, when we both performed at the Salmon Arms Fest in Canada. It is a nod to that great family. This was done on both sides of the pond, with Sarah Brown on bass, Louise and Sarah on vocals. Blackie Farrell

and me again with the yellow pad and #2 pencil, written as a gospel song without The Gospel. If anyone out there does get the inside memo on posthumous, don't tell me. Somehow it would spoil everything. BK

12. THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'

Great. Now I've got to explain why I like Dylan so dang much. OK, saw him at my high school in Ann Arbor in '63, Newport Folk Festival in '64 where he debuted Mr. Effing Tambourine Man, then came to Newport the next year and saw him "go electric" (he'd already released the R'n'R single "Subterranean Homesick Blues") with Bloomfield et al. Incidentally, I heard zero booing. None. I loved it. What I saw those two years at Newport and the diverse music that came through Ann Arbor and Detroit ruined me for normal work. BK

TOUR DATES

All shows are with Bill Kirchen, Austin de Lone and band unless noted

FR Aug 26 Liberty, UT - Ogden Calley Roots and Blues Festival
SA Aug 27 Berkeley, CA - Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse # (**special guest Bobby Black**)
SU Aug 28 Santa Monica, CA - McCabe's Guitar Shop (**Bill Kirchen & Audie de Lone duo show**)
WE Aug 31 New York, NY - Joe's Pub
TH Sept 1 Philadelphia, PA - Tin Angel
FR Sep 02 Richmond, VA - The Tin Pan
SA Sep 03 Alexandria, VA - Birchmere (**special guests Tom Principato Band**)
FR Sep 09 - SU Sep 11 Greensboro, NC - National Folk Festival (**Bill Kirchen**)
TH Sep 15 Wimberley, TX - Wimberly Methodist Church
FR Sep 16 Baton Rouge, LA - Red Dragon Listening Room
SA Sep 17 New Orleans, LA - Chickie Wah Wah
MO Sep 19 Buffalo, NY - Sportsmens Tavern - SAM Awards (**Bill Kirchen and Jim Lauderdale**)
FR Sep 30 - SU Oct 02 - San Francisco, CA - Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival #
SA Oct 8 Huntington Beach, CA - Don the Beachcomber (**Bill Kirchen and Commander Cody**)
FR Oct 28 Austin, TX - The Backstage at El Mercado
SA Oct 29 Houston, TX - The Mucky Duck
SU Oct 30 New Braunfels, TX - Gruene Hall
TH Nov 3 Fairfield, IA - The Depot Brewery
FR Nov 4 Minneapolis, MN - Lee's Liquor Lounge
SAT Nov 5 Berwyn, IL - Fitzgerald's
FR Dec 02 Shirley, MA - Bull Run Restaurant
SA Dec 03 Buffalo, NY - The Sportsmens Tavern
SU Dec 04 Rochester, NY - The Lovin' Cup