

RED HOUSE RECORDS

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



Carrie Elkin CALL IT MY GARDEN

RHR-CD-237 • Release Date: January 25, 2011

Breakout album from Austin's next Americana gem!

Red House Records is pleased to announce the January 25, 2011 release of *Call It My Garden*, the label debut from Austin artist

Carrie Elkin. A singer-songwriter known for her dynamic vocals and “warm, earthy poetry” (*Maverick Magazine*), she has built up a significant fan following on both sides of the Atlantic, playing some of the most prestigious clubs and theaters as well as major festivals like **Lilith Fair**, **South By Southwest (SXSW)** and **Falcon Ridge**.

Certain to be a hit on folk and Americana radio as well as the breakout album for this young talent, *Call It My Garden* is a sparkling mix of folk, Americana and string band sounds. Her vocals are vibrant and soulful, delivering heartfelt songs about how to plant one's own garden and live with beauty and personal integrity.

“My music is my family, my home, my garden” Carrie says. From **Rodney Bursiel**'s stunning photography to **Vanessa Lively**'s beautiful album art, the album is a locally grown project, designed and recorded in Austin, Texas. Capturing the collaborative spirit of her hometown, she recorded the tracks live with friends in songwriter **Sam Baker**'s living room, kitchen and office. Artists on the album include people she's toured with like **Raina Rose**, **Robby Hecht**, **AJ Roach**, **Anthony Da Costa** and **Storyhill's John Hermanson**. “My ‘folk family’ is what keeps me going, and there's nothing like making music with the people you love. There was a beautiful mix of professionalism and ridiculousness. We laughed a lot.”

Produced by frequent collaborators **Colin Brooks** of **The Band of Heathens** and Red House artist **Danny Schmidt**, the album captures the joyful spirit and intimacy that only happens between friends. Up-tempo tracks like “**Jesse Likes Birds**” and “**Guilty Hands**” are reminiscent of a jubilant down-home hootenanny while tracks like “**Lift Up the Anchor**” and “**Dear Sam**” (written for Sam Baker and featuring him on harmony vocals) sound like whispered late-night confessions.

Carrie's poignant, often personal, originals are mixed in with a lovely cover of **Dar Williams**' “**Iowa**,” a song that she says rings true in every stage of her life. That honest spirit permeates the album, right through to “**Edge of the World**,” the final track.

“I felt like it would be nice closure for the record,” Carrie says. “The theme of the song ties the whole production vision and greater theme of the album together. It's about pushing the edge of your boundaries and taking great leaps of faith.” Taking that leap, Carrie and the band recorded the song in the first take with no rehearsals. Wonderfully ragged and romantic, this wild carnival of a song takes on an anthemic quality and illustrates the organic way in which the album was created. Authentic and beautiful, Carrie's album truly is a garden of heirloom riches, sweet from start to finish.

Supporting her album, Carrie will be on tour throughout the US and Europe in 2011 and will showcase at **SXSW** and the **International Folk Alliance Conference**. For her full tour schedule, visit her website at www.carriekin.com or www.redhousetrecords.com.

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BIOGRAPHY

Carrie Elkin is a soulful singer with a gypsy spirit, a songwriter with a keen eye. Inspired by her travels and the many places she has called home-- Ohio, New Mexico, Colorado, Boston, Austin--she documents the human condition with sensitivity and humor, crafting songs that have garnered attention at prestigious songwriting contests, including **Mountain Stage NewSong** and the **Falcon Ridge Emerging Artist Showcase**.

Carrie is a born performer, possessing an infectious energy that cannot be contained. As *Maverick Magazine* so eloquently put it: "We have never seen a performer so in love with the act of singing. Onstage Elkin was simply a force of nature." With her dazzling voice and unpretentious charm, she wins over new fans at every show, whether playing at a headlining club gig, singing the national anthem in front of 20,000 at a **Chicago Bulls** game or opening for artists like **Jesse Winchester**, **The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band** and **Greg Brown**.

Although Carrie got her musical start young, singing in church and playing the saxophone, she lived an extremely diverse and active young life. She competed as a **National Champion acro gymnast**, which led to an eventual invitation to join the circus. Instead, she studied physiology at Ohio University and became an organic chemist. But music never left her blood, and the attention she was gaining from her songwriting quickly stole her away from the academic world, as she began to record and tour across the country.

After settling in Austin, Texas in 2007, she recorded her album *The Jeopardy of Circumstance*. Produced by **Colin Brooks (The Band of Heathens)**, the album received rave reviews in the US and the UK that shot her up the Euro-Americana Charts and landed her a spot on Bob Harris' national **BBC Radio** show and several prestigious festival invitations.

Hot on the heels of her recent success, comes Carrie's new album *Call It My Garden*. This debut on Grammy-winning folk label **Red House Records** was produced by Colin Brooks and **Danny Schmidt** and features many of Carrie's close musical friends, including **Sam Baker**, **Raina Rose**, **Robby Hecht**, **AJ Roach**, **Anthony Da Costa** and **Storyhill's John Hermanson**.

Supporting her album, Carrie will be on tour throughout the US and Europe in 2011 and will showcase at the **South By Southwest (SXSW) Music Festival** and the **International Folk Alliance Conference**. For her full tour schedule, visit www.carriemelkin.com or www.redhouserecords.com.

QUOTES

"I'm thinking Patty Griffin, Nanci Griffith and Iris DeMent....spellbinding from the opening track"
- **BBC Radio**

"Carrie Elkin's songs are, at once, intimate yet universal, naked yet richly adorned. Her voice is simply revelatory"
- **FolkWax**

"Instantly likeable, clever and rewarding"
- **Maverick Magazine**

"Carrie Elkin displays one of the most powerful female voices"
- **Cleveland Scene**

"Very few people in this world can captivate an audience with just a voice and a guitar the way Carrie Elkin can."
- **Athens Music Network**

"She is a serious songwriter and a gifted vocalist...Elkin is going places."
- **Steamboat Pilot**

