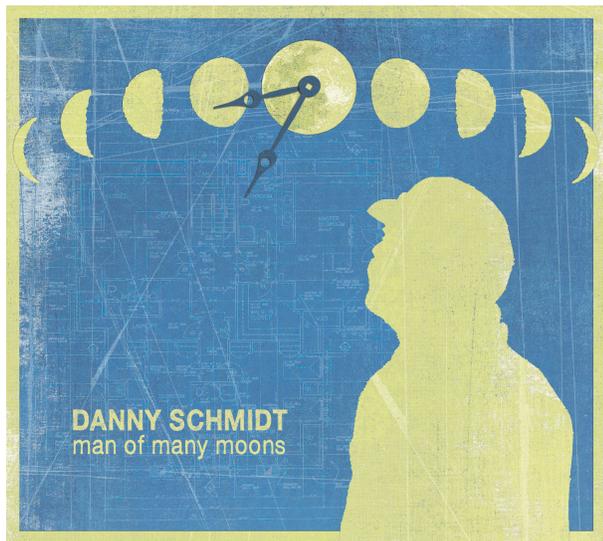


RED HOUSE RECORDS

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



DANNY SCHMIDT man of many moons

RHR-CD-232 • Release Date: February 8, 2011

“Danny Schmidt is a force of nature: a blue moon, a hundred-year flood, an avalanche of a singer-songwriter.”
- *Sing Out!*

“idiosyncratic, meticulously constructed songs...infused with intellect and quirkiness.” - *New Yorker*

Red House Records is pleased to announce the February 8, 2011 release of *Man of Many Moons*, the new album from Austin folksinger **Danny Schmidt**. Recognized for his sharp wit and poetic sensibility, he has been called “a rare breed” by the *Austin Chronicle*--a musician’s musician who is respected for his highly original writing and loved for his captivating performances. Since the release of his Red House debut *Instead the Forest Rose to Sing*, he has emerged from the underground music scene to become one of America’s most significant songwriters. The album garnered rave reviews and charted for months on folk and Americana radio, making *No Depression’s* “Best of 2009” list and becoming the #2 most played folk album that year. Now, with the release of his new album, Danny confirms that he is “one of the great singer-songwriters of his generation” (*Heaven Magazine*).

On *Man of Many Moons*, Danny returns to a purely acoustic sound, bringing us an album that is truly stripped down to the songs themselves. “The vision for the production was to try and allow the songs the breath and space to remain simple and intimate,” he says. “It’s, for the most part, me and my guitar and the songs. That was the vision going in, and that’s what we managed to stick with throughout the process, fighting through all the anxiety that stirs up when a person decides, for the sake of art, to venture out downtown...naked.”

Recorded by **Keith Gary** at Blue Rock Studio in Wimberley, Texas, the album features a few guest appearances by guitarist **Will Sexton** (Waylon Jennings, Roky Erikson), singer **Raina Rose** and fellow Red House artists **Ray Bonneville** and **Carrie Elkin**. Adding only light accompaniment, they deftly let the spotlight shine on Danny, showing his virtuosity as a guitarist, singer and poet.

Lyrical rich, Danny’s songs dance around the theme of personal evolution and a complicated relationship with commitment. The album begins and ends with songs of self-discovery (“**Houses Sing**” and “**Know Thy Place**”) and in between moves through the personally conscious to the socially conscious--from the devastatingly honest title track to the playfully political “**Guilty By Association Blues**.” Full of humor and revelation, *Man of Many Moons* is an album about challenging some of life’s difficult rough edges. “These songs reflect a growthful period in my life,” Danny says. “They are full of stark realizations, and that’s how we tried to present the songs. Simple and bare.” This honesty is present throughout the album and exemplifies why Danny Schmidt is the genuine article--an artist who shares his own experiences to reveal deep truths about our lives and our purpose and place in the world.

Supporting his album, Danny will be on tour throughout the US and Europe in 2011 and will showcase at **South By Southwest (SXSW)** and the **International Folk Alliance Conference**. For his full tour schedule, visit his website at www.dannyschmidt.com or www.redhousetrecords.com.

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

ABOUT THE SONGS *by Danny Schmidt*

1. Houses Sing: I wrote this song in the midst of the house-hunting process. Turns out that process has a lot less to do with scouring the listings for the right pile of brick and wood and a lot more to do with browsing your inner neighborhoods for signs of various commitments . . . commitments to place, commitments to path, and commitments to another person. It was astonishing to me how much dust a single stationary structure can stir up inside you, by the simple virtue of the fact that it will sit so soundly on it's foundation and not move, ever. One hopes.

2. Little White Angels: This song is about questioning those external comforts that we rely on to help steady ourselves against the waves and the tides. And about eventually floating past the line of realization that those same comforts are creating the waves and tides themselves.

3. Man of Many Moons: I've always been a night owl, and a night wanderer. When the rest of the world seems quiet and still, sometimes complex questions seem to expose their answers in apparent and obvious ways. The questions of my capacity for love, relationship, and commitment have been consistently complex, and their answers consistently inconsistent. And sometimes, in those late night wanderings, there seem to be moments of illumination. By the light of the moon, perhaps. If only the moon would stay in phase, night after night . . . instead of casting an ever-changing, distinct, but equally obvious light on matters every day.

4. Buckets of Rain: This was the first Bob Dylan song that really hooked me in. I've always loved how beautifully circular and interwoven the guitar line is . . . and always resented that Dylan could cut straight across it with such simple straight-forward lyrics. And, of course, it works. Like an arrow and a heart. Dylan is real good.

5. Ragtime Ragtime Blues: This is one of those love songs that gets me in trouble with my sweetie. It's one of those: "Look, I love you so much that I don't run away from you every month when you become completely irrational and come at me with fire in your eyes and your swords flailing." I think that's a powerful affirmation, personally. She does, too, a large part of the time.

6. Guilty By Association Blues: This song is just a not-very-sneaky way of saying some uncomfortable things about the way I think the world works, while attributing those observations to cute helpless animals, thereby deflecting any grief I might hear back from the uncomfortable world. Pretty smart, really.

7. Almost Round the World: This is a bit of a sequel to the last song. It's a long convoluted story of how our young underdeveloped global neural network passes many messages and much information instantaneously, and often inaccurately, in a big cloudy furious circle.

8. Two Guitars: This is an older song . . . a letter back to my buddy and artistic comrade, Paul Curreri . . . lamenting the state of our so-called "careers" when we had both just quit our day jobs and set about being full-time artists. Thank god for good friends to share the sinking boat with.

9. On Abundance: This song is about how we each carry with us many privileges and good fortunes that would fill some unfortunate void in someone else's life. In that way we're each over privileged. And also under privileged. Whether that wealth is in some material form, or just simply some ability we possess, or wish we possessed . . . or some opportunity we've been afforded or wish we could have bestowed upon us. The tragedy is in the difficulty that exists redistributing those abundances amongst ourselves.

10. I've Mostly Watched: This is another older song. I've very rarely performed it, but I wanted to include it with these other songs because it seemed to fit somehow. I wrote it when I thought I might be dying . . . lamenting the fact that I hadn't done more in this world. Several years later, I do still feel much the same regret . . . that I spend a lot more time observing and commenting than I do engaging and engineering more productive responses.

11. Know Thy Place: This song is about not letting anyone tell you what your limitations are in this life. It's always easy enough to discover your actual limitations for yourself. And, though I'm not one of those people with crystals in their eyes who believes we are of infinite potential and without personal limitation . . . I do think we're capable of a lot more than other people's fears would seem to want to allow us.

BIOGRAPHY

Austin, Texas native **Danny Schmidt** has built a cult following as a modern day poet and classic troubadour. A true renaissance man and consummate artist, his work is rich and wide-ranging. His lyrics have been published as poetry in literary journals. His photographs from the road have been included in photo exhibits and sold as fine art prints. He has written children's stories. He designs his own album artwork and codes his own website. And, he has produced albums for friends, including Red House artist **Carrie Elkin**. Danny is a man of many media.

His life has followed a similar multi-dimensional path. He dropped out of college to pursue a more holistic and connected life on a self-sustainable communal farm. He worked as a sawyer at a sawmill in rural Virginia and as a preschool teacher in Texas. He helped found a musician's cooperative in Charlottesville, and he is now currently working on a web-based cooperative of musicians.

While the creative expressions along his unorthodox path have taken many forms, it's Danny's music, and songwriting in particular, that have garnered him the most notoriety, winning him the **2007 Kerrville New Folk Award** and attracting the attention of venerable roots label Red House Records.



Photo by Rodney Bursiel

Danny's label debut ***Instead the Forest Rose to Sing*** was recorded in Austin by **Mark Hallman (David Byrne, Ani DiFranco, Eliza Gilkyson)** and mixed folk, Americana and indie-rock sounds. It garnered rave reviews and made **No Depression's "Best of 2009"** list. The **#2 most played folk album** that year, it also solidified Danny's place as one of today's most important voices and led him to be highlighted by **Rich Warren** in the *Chicago Tribune* as one of the **top 50 most significant folk songwriters in the last 50 years**.

Now, with his new album ***Man of Many Moons***, Danny returns to an intensely intimate solo acoustic sound. Both thoughtful and playful, the songs dance around themes of personal evolution and an ever-fluid relationship with commitment.

Supporting his album, Danny will be on tour throughout the US and Europe in 2011 and will showcase at **South By Southwest (SXSW)** and the **International Folk Alliance Conference**. A busy touring performer, Danny has won fans across on both sides of the Atlantic. He has played the top clubs and festivals and shared the stage with such notable artists as **Leon Russell, Kelly Joe Phelps, Janis Ian, Malcolm Holcombe** and **Chris Smither**.

When not on the road, Danny lives in Austin where he likes to cook, brew beer and wine and take in as many Texas Longhorns games as he can.

QUOTES

“Schmidt is a stellar poet and musician...too original and too good for a mere cult following.”

— *Dirty Linen*

“Danny plays a guitar as natural as he breathes.”

— *XM/Sirius Radio*

“the best new songwriter...in the last 15 years”

— *Sing Out!*

“Like Richard Thompson and Townes Van Zandt, Schmidt writes with a clarity that’s never verbose or flashy, just simple words attempting to unearth simple truths.”

— *Dallas Observer*

“his songs, so lyrically rich, so finely crafted, carry the power of fine poetry”

— *Austin American-Statesman*

“Danny Schmidt is the real thing, a bona fide ‘best new songwriter in ‘x’ years’ kinda guy.”

— *Penguin Eggs*

“There are some albums that jump right out of the speakers at you and grab you by the throat. Intensely intelligent, this is sensitive songwriting at its finest.”

— *Maverick*

“With seductive simplicity, his music demands your attention.”

— *Texas Monthly*

“Schmidt...is on a meteoric rise on the circuit”

— *The State (Columbia, SC)*

“Danny Schmidt is an intense and arresting, interesting and entertaining, profound and grounded singer-songwriter garnering praise from critics who dare to speak his name in the same breath with Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen.”

— *Illinois Times*

“brilliant, poetic songs on the human condition”

— *KUT Radio*

“The songwriting is on the very highest level...He seems to always to be dealing in the quarter tones of feeling, getting at the complexity with what seems like effortless simplicity.”

— *Music Matters Review*

“In today’s underground folk world, Danny Schmidt is spoken of in reverent tones, drawing comparisons to Leonard Cohen, with a poetry that breathes naturally and without pretension”

— *Austin Chronicle*

“beautifully crafted, lonesome pines music”

— *Q Magazine*