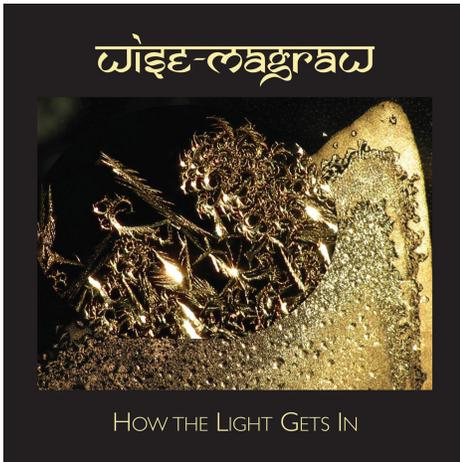


RED HOUSE RECORDS

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Cover art by Marcus Wise

Wise-Magraw

How the Light Gets In

Tabla player Marcus Wise & guitarist Dean Magraw reunite
25 years after their first Red House release!

RHR-CD-236 • Release Date: November 9, 2010

Red House Records is pleased to announce the November 9, 2010 release of *How the Light Gets In*, the new instrumental album by **Wise-Magraw**. Featuring the virtuosic talents of tabla player **Marcus Wise**

and guitarist **Dean Magraw**, this is their first duo recording since their 1985 Red House release *Wise-Magraw* (the fifth album released on the label).

Taken from Leonard Cohen's song "Anthem," the title *How the Light Gets In* refers to the imperfection of things and that it is through the cracks that we are able to see light and beauty. "We really didn't do much polishing on this record," Dean says. "We recorded it in 3 or 4 sessions, and that was about it." The album is about living in the moment, about the interplay of two artists listening to each other and creating music together.

A transformative experience for both musicians, the recording of this album came not long after Dean Magraw was diagnosed with MDS and had a bone marrow transplant. Marcus Wise, his friend for over 30 years, saw that he was struggling and suggested they get together to play some music. There was so much magic in that get-together that they decided to go into the studio to finish an old recording which they had never released. But when Dean and Marcus started playing, they discovered that the music they were making was in no way related to their previous work--it was something altogether different.

"There was something special that happened in Matthew Zimmerman's Wild Sound Studio," Dean says. "Marcus and I have been playing together for years, but during this project, we listened to each other in a way that was really new. We spent more time in silence--hearing the notes, feeling them. It was an amazing environment to make music in."

Although Dean was still recovering from his bone marrow transplant, he left the studio with renewed energy. The spirit that permeated these recording sessions affected both musicians.

"Recording with Dean when he was being physically, mentally and spiritually challenged...watching him pour all his soul into that crystallized moment was one of my great crossroads," Marcus says. "Both our musical ideas kept evolving until we happily realized a whole new CD."

Full of transcendent moments, *How the Light Gets In*, is brimming with positive energy. Whether in quiet tracks like "Jade" or in driving numbers like "Entrainment," the music is sometimes meditative, sometimes lively but always soulful and original.

For more about Wise-Magraw and information on upcoming events, visit their Facebook page at XXX.

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

Dean Magraw - www.deanmagraw.com

Dean Magraw is a consummate guitarist, playing with wit and soulful abandon. A performer like no other, he is part-comedian, part-philosopher and all-around musical genius. Transcending genre, he has performed with a cornucopia of collaborators from jazz organist **Jack McDuff** to folk icon **Greg Brown**, trad Irish supergroup **Altan** to classical violinist **Nigel Kennedy**.



Dean Magraw & Marcus Wise

Growing up in a musical household, Dean soaked in a smorgasbord of musical influences. His parents danced to big band swing; his sister listened to show tunes and his guitar and veena playing brother's record collection was full of folk, jazz, rock, and classical Indian albums. But it was the opening riff to the Rolling Stones' "19th Nervous Breakdown" that caused him to fall in love with the guitar.

In his formative years Dean quickly expanded his musical knowledge by incorporating his love of myriad musical styles into his playing and writing. With his eclectic background and musical versatility, he quickly evolved into one of the most innovative guitarists on the international scene as well as one of the most accomplished and original composers, arrangers and producers around. From playing on public radio's *A Prairie Home Companion* to leading up his own experimental jam band **Eight Head**, Dean has literally generated a new world of music.

In addition to his role as an in-demand sideman on over a hundred recording projects, Dean has proven pivotal in creating more than a dozen albums, including four for Red House Records: *Wise-Magraw* (1985), *Broken Silence* (1994), *Seventh One* (1998) and *Duo* (1991), an album he recorded with Emmy Award winning multi-instrumentalist **Peter Ostroushko**.

Diagnosed with MDS in 2009, a new chapter has opened in Dean's life perspective and artistic endeavors. A bone marrow transplant prevented him from performing...but not recording. During the early stages of his medical treatment, Dean went into the studio with his longtime friend and collaborator Marcus Wise. Proving the healing power of music, they are now releasing *How the Light Gets In*, an engaging collection of highly original compositions nurtured in a refreshingly distinctive soundscape. As is evident on this new album, Dean continues to radiate positive energy through his music. Playing with insight, passion and joy, he shows why he is one of the most ground-breaking musicians of our time.

Marcus Wise - www.marcuswise.net

Marcus Wise is a top-tier tabla player, poetic and genre-bending. An ambassador of Eastern classical music, he makes Indian sounds accessible to American music fans, collaborating with folk, jazz, gospel and pop artists. He has performed and recorded with such artists as **The Doors' John Densmore**, sitar player **David Whetstone**, R&B singer **Alexander O'Neal**, classical Indian musician **Nirmala Rajasekar**, jazz artist **Anthony Cox**, cellist **David Darling**, sarod player **Bruce Hamm** and pop producer **Jimmy Jam** (Janet Jackson, Chaka Khan, Mary J. Blige).

One of the first professional tabla players in the United States, Marcus has been playing for over 35 years. Born and raised in Minnesota, Marcus left home at 19, following the death of his brother in Vietnam and his father a year later. He hitchhiked to New York City, flew to Paris and spent some time in Spain, where he learned how to play the conga drums. From there, he traveled to North Africa, Persia and India--an experience that changed his life. Marcus returned to India in 1975 to apprentice with tabla player **Ustad Dham Ali Qadri**. They had met when Ustad was a visiting artist at the University of Minnesota, and Marcus was invited to study and live at his home in Jaipur.

It has been 35 years since Marcus first went to India to learn to play the tablas. Since then, he has toured around the world, performing in front of the **Dalai Lama** in 1989, when he received his **Nobel Peace Prize**, and making notable appearances on **MTV** (the 200 reunion of The Doors) and **VH1's Storyteller Series**. Marcus has made recordings with world-renowned guitarists **Dean Magraw** and **Steve Tibbetts** and has accompanied Minnesota Poet Laureate **Robert Bly** and **Coleman Barks** on their spoken word projects.

Although there were no musicians in his family, Marcus' father and brother were both writers. Sharing their affinity for the spoken word, Marcus has worked extensively with poets and playwrights. Strongly connected to the Minneapolis arts community, he has composed music for the **Guthrie Theater's** 1991 production of *Medea* and played for the opening of the **Walker Art Center** in 2005.

Marcus still makes Minneapolis his home and continues to perform, record and teach tablas privately from his home.