

RED HOUSE RECORDS

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PAT DONOHUE & BUTCH THOMPSON - VICKSBURG BLUES -

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Red House Records is pleased to announce the **August 14, 2012** release of *Vicksburg Blues*, the first duo album from **Pat Donohue & Butch Thompson**. Staples of the Twin Cities jazz, blues and folk scenes, the **Grammy-winning** guitarist and world-renowned pianist/clarinetist have collaborated for the last several decades, performing regularly on the national radio show *A Prairie Home Companion*. Now the dynamic duo releases their first album together on their hometown label Red House Records.

Highly evocative of the classic piano and acoustic guitar recordings of artists like **Leroy Carr** and **Scrapper Blackwell**, this stunning 19-track album was recorded at **Wild Sound** in Minneapolis and features songs by Carr, **Jelly Roll Morton**, **King Oliver**, **Blind Blake** and Butch's mentor--blues legend **Little Brother Montgomery**. Woven in seamlessly with five fantastic originals and one that Butch Thompson co-wrote with Montgomery ("**Sunday Rag**"), these tunes sound both fresh and familiar, showcasing Butch and Pat's first-rate musicianship and their deep love and respect for the tradition of the blues.



Pat Donohue digs deep on the vocals, singing uncommonly soulful versions of "**Vicksburg Blues**" and "**219 Blues**" and a very playful version of "**Papa's on the Housetop**." Backed up by Butch Thompson's nuanced piano playing and haunting clarinet solos and Pat's own hot guitar licks, the pair create an album that harkens back to the great albums of yesteryears, mixing Delta blues, ragtime and Dixieland jazz. From nostalgic instrumentals ("**If I Had You**," "**You Can't Lose a Broken Heart**") to rollicking numbers ("**Poker Woman**," "**Mean Mistreater Blues**," "**That D Strain**"), Pat Donohue & Butch Thompson showcase what they are best at, creating a new American blues classic that speaks to all generations.

"A masterful guitarist and talented singer-songwriter... Donohue is a natural entertainer."
-Los Angeles Times

"Thompson is internationally acclaimed as perhaps the finest interpreter of early jazz piano."
-Offbeat

Pat Donohue & Butch Thompson will be playing select dates in support of their new album, including a special CD release show presented by Red House Records on **Friday, October 19** at the **Landmark Center's F.K. Weyerhaeuser Auditorium**. For more information about that show and the fall **Red House Live** concert series, please visit www.landmarkcenter.org. More Pat & Butch tour dates can be found at www.redhousetrecords.com.

ABOUT PAT DONOHUE

As the guitarist for the **Guys All-Star Shoe Band** of the national radio show *A Prairie Home Companion*, Pat Donohue is one of the most listened-to finger pickers in the world. In addition to traveling with the show and performing on the weekly radio broadcasts, Pat plays concerts and teaches workshops at the country's most prestigious theaters and festivals, including the **Newport, Telluride and Philadelphia Folk Festivals**. He was the 1983 **National Finger Picking Guitar Champion** and has since gone on to win a **Grammy** and numerous **Minnesota Music Awards**. His original tunes have been recorded by **Chet Atkins, Suzy Bogguss and Kenny Rogers**.

Pat started out playing drums in a garage band, but at age 12 he picked up guitar, learning simple chords and melodies from a Pete Seeger instructional book. The St. Paul native immersed himself in the Minnesota coffeehouses and blue venues where he could hear the guitar legends.

"I was very lucky to see some of the old-timers that aren't around anymore," says Pat. "The University of Minnesota had summer concerts in the early 70s and I got to see **Lightnin' Hopkins, Big Joe Williams and Jesse Fuller**. I wasn't shy about going up to them and trying to befriend them and find out what I could about playing the blues. By and large, they were very accommodating. Big Joe Williams invited me to his hotel and we wound up playing guitar together."

Taking what he learned from these blues guitar greats, Pat Donohue has gone on to make a name for himself, releasing many albums and instructional videos. He also has joined a legendary list of notables, getting his own signature guitar model made by **Martin Guitars**.

For more about Pat Donohue, visit his website at www.patdonohue.com.

ABOUT BUTCH THOMPSON

In a career spanning over 40 years, pianist and clarinetist **Butch Thompson** has earned an international reputation as a traditional jazz and ragtime master. He has toured extensively, playing with the world's major orchestras and with his own acclaimed ensembles, which include the **Butch Thompson Trio**, the eight-piece **Jazz Originals** band, the **Butch Thompson Big Three** and his unique chamber music duo with cellist **Laura Sewell**.

Born and raised in Marine-on-St. Croix, a small Minnesota river town, Butch got his start at age three, playing his mother's upright piano. In high school, he went on to study clarinet and led his first professional jazz group. After he graduated, he joined the **Hall Brothers New Orleans Jazz Band of Minneapolis** and at age 18 became one of the few non-New Orleans natives to perform at the famed **Preservation Hall** in the 60s and 70s.

In 1974, Butch played on the first broadcasts of the national radio show *A Prairie Home Companion*, and by the time it was syndicated in 1980, the Butch Thompson Trio was the house band, a position the group held for the next six years. Since then Butch has become widely known as a leading authority on jazz. He served as a development consultant on the 1992 Broadway hit *Jelly's Last Jam*, which starred **Gregory Hines**. He also joined the touring company of the off-Broadway show *Jelly Roll! The Music and the Man*, playing several runs with the show in New York and with its touring company through 1997.

As one of the most sought-after jazz and blues musicians, he has performed on many recordings, including the **Grammy-winning** Verve release *Doc Cheatham and Nicholas Payton*. He has also released 27 albums of his own, including his acclaimed 10-volume solo series and his highly anticipated new recording with Pat Donohue called *Vicksburg Blues*.

Butch Thompson also hosts a radio show called "Jazz Originals" that airs on **Jazz88 FM** in Minneapolis. For more about Butch, visit his website at www.butchthompson.com.