

RED HOUSE RECORDS

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Robin & Linda Williams “Back 40”

The Americana pioneers celebrate forty years of performing!

RHR-CD-274 • Release Date: October 22, 2013

"Underlying their sound are lyrics that pluck at the nerve center of emotional experiences."

- *Billboard*

"The Williamses are able to sum up a life in a few details with moving completeness."

- *The Washington Post*

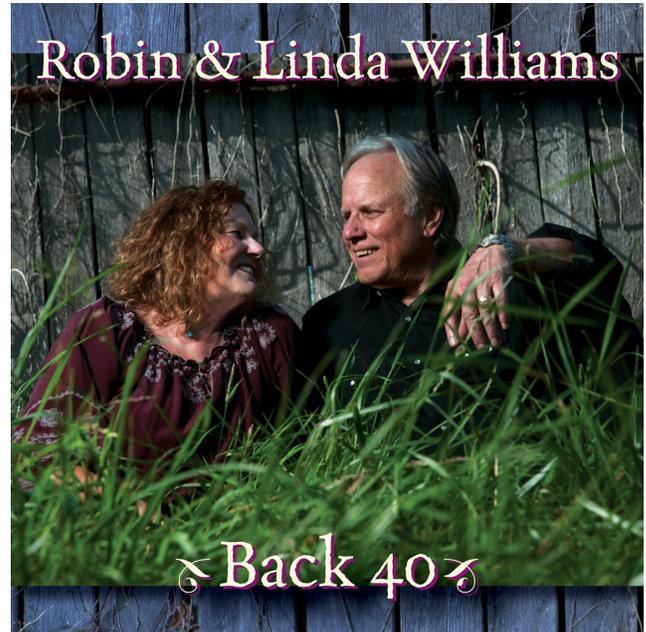
With a rich career spanning four decades, Virginia-based duo **Robin & Linda Williams** have made it their mission to perform the music that they love, a robust blend of bluegrass, folk, old-time and acoustic country that combines wryly observant lyrics with a wide-ranging melodicism. Today some might call it "Americana," but these two revered music masters were living and breathing this elixir 20 years before that term was turned into a radio format. With the release of their new studio album ***Back 40***, out on **October 22** on **Red House Records**, the Williams celebrate

their musical legacy with a newly recorded album that features fresh treatments of their early classics (many from albums long out of print) and favorites by other writers, as well as a brand new song, "**The Old Familiar House on Christmas Day**."

Produced in Nashville by Grammy-winning producer **Jim Rooney** (**Nanci Griffith**, **Iris DeMent**, **Bonnie Raitt**, **John Prine**, etc), the Williams are backed by the able trio of **Todd Phillips** (David Grisman Quintet, Tony Rice Unit) on standup bass, **Al Perkins** (Flying Burrito Brothers, Emmylou Harris & The Nash Ramblers) on Dobro and pedal steel, and bandmates **Chris Brashear** on mandolin and fiddle and **Jim Watson** (former Red Clay Rambler) on vocal harmony."

Producer Jim Rooney says of the album, "I love listening to them sing this collection of songs. I have several favorites - their takes on '**Urge For Going**' and '**Boots Of Spanish Leather**' are as good as any I have heard. '**The Real Thing**' and '**Green Summertime**' get me every time. Don't get me started! Pretty damn good to have this freshness and energy after all the years and miles."

Their stirring concerts have earned them a huge body of fans over the years. But as gifted songwriters Robin and Linda have earned an even rarer honor -- the devotion and deep respect of their musical peers. Their songs have endured and been recorded by the likes of **Emmylou Harris**, **Tom T. Hall**, **George Hamilton IV**, **Tim & Mollie O'Brien**, **Mary Chapin Carpenter**, **Kathy Mattea**, and **The Seldom Scene**. As live performers they are second to none, keeping a busy tour schedule and



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also guesting on *A Prairie Home Companion*, which they've appeared on since the public radio show's early days (they're also featured in the *A Prairie Home Companion* film).

Back 40 is a milestone release by this celebrated Southern duo. Contact us to be serviced with the album or for interview or press requests and catch them on one of the tour dates below. More information and tour info is at <http://robinandlinda.com> or www.redhousetrecords.com.

ROBIN & LINDA WILLIAMS BIOGRAPHY

"They don't play at being country -- they are country." -No Depression
"Robin and Linda Williams have assembled one of the most daunting, emotionally honest, and brilliantly crafted catalogs in American music." - All Music Guide

For four decades, **Robin & Linda Williams** have made it their mission to perform the music that they love, "a robust blend of bluegrass, folk, old-time and acoustic country that combines wryly observant lyrics with a wide-ranging melodicism." The list of artists who have covered their original songs include some of the greats of country music, names like **Emmylou Harris, Tom T. Hall, Tim & Mollie O'Brien, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Kathy Mattea** and **Mary Black**. It is no wonder that their writing has garnered rave reviews from the likes of *Billboard*, *USA Today*, *CMT* and *The Washington Post*.

Home for Robin and Linda is an old frame house built around a log cabin in Middlebrook, Virginia, right in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley. Linda is a native of Anniston, Alabama and Robin (the son of a Presbyterian minister) was born in Charlotte, North Carolina. They met and fell for each other in 1971 on a visit to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina while Linda was teaching school and Robin was a full-time musician on a national coffeehouse circuit. It wasn't long before they discovered additional magic when they combined their voices in harmony.

Despite being true children of the South, their career got its initial momentum in the Minneapolis folk scene. Robin had made many friends and connections there as a solo artist and in 1975 they recorded their first album in Minneapolis for a local record company. The same year they made their first appearance on a radio show just getting off the ground called *A Prairie Home Companion* and began their rich relationship with that icon of American broadcasting. The show's creator and host **Garrison Keillor** remembers that Robin & Linda sang on the show just a few months after it started. "They have been on regularly every year since, so they really are representative of the heart, the core and soul of our show."

Over the next 15 years they recorded several fine albums and continued to crisscross the country, past miles and miles of highway signs, thrilling audiences with their songs and harmonies. Folk and country fans alike loved their honest heartfelt music. In 1989 a major breakthrough came with their signing to Sugar Hill Records, with whom they would go on to record nine albums. It would be a fruitful relationship and, amazingly, each succeeding recording (beginning with 1989's *All Broken Hearts Are the Same*) would top the previous one in artistry and quality. Around the same time, they began to tour with a band called **Their Fine Group**, and their already big sound grew all the more. 1993 saw increased exposure through a major tour with Mary Chapin Carpenter and the now large national audience of *A Prairie Home Companion*. With their career then at its 20-year mark, Robin and Linda entered into a prolific period of artistic productivity. Within six years they released several CD's, including a gospel album, which garnered two nominations for **Gospel Album of the Year**.

In 2004, Robin & Linda were signed to Red House Records, returning to their Minnesota roots. They have released seven albums with the Grammy-winning label, including *Deeper Waters* (2004), *The First Christmas Gift* (2005), *Radio Songs* (2007), *Buena Vista* (2008), *Stonewall Country* (2011), based on a musical about the life and times of Civil War General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, and *These Old Dark Hills* (2012), and *Back 40* (2013), which was recorded in Nashville and produced by **Jim Rooney** (Nanci Griffith, Townes Van Zandt, Bonnie Raitt, John Prine).

Robin & Linda have made appearances on such major programs as *The Grand Ole Opry*, *Austin City Limits*, *Music City Tonight*, *Mountain Stage*, and they continue to make frequent appearances on *A Prairie Home Companion*. They were also prominently featured in the motion picture written by Garrison Keillor and directed by critically acclaimed filmmaker **Robert Altman**. The movie is a fictional story based on the set of *A Prairie Home Companion* and stars such notable actors as **Meryl Streep, Tommy Lee Jones, Lily Tomlin, Woody Harrelson, John C.**

Reilly, Kevin Kline and Lindsay Lohan.

Robin & Linda tour constantly with **Their Fine Group**. Band members include **Jim Watson** on bass and vocals and **Chris Brashear** on mandolin and fiddle. Jim was a member of the **Red Clay Ramblers** and played with them for 14 years. Chris is a highly skilled instrumentalist and singer who is known for his work with the bluegrass band **Perfect Strangers** and for his duet work with **Peter McLaughlin**.

2013 TOUR DATES

FR Oct. 4 Baraboo, WI - Ringling Theatre
SA Oct. 5 Dawson, MN - Memorial Auditorium - 7:30pm
SU Oct. 6 Ames, IA - The Maintenance Shop - TBA
TU Oct. 15 Madisonville, KY - Glema Mahr Center for the Arts - 7:30pm
FR Oct. 18 Big Snow Gap, VA - Mountain Empire Community College - TBA
SU Oct. 20 Black Mountain, NC - Lake Eden Arts Festival - TBA
TH Nov. 7 Durango, CO - Fort Lewis College Community Concert Hall - 7pm
SA Nov. 9 Denver, CO - Swallow Hill/Daniels Hall - 8pm
TH Nov. 21 Newark, OH - Midland Theater - 7:30pm
FR Nov. 22 Springfield, OH - Clark State Performing Arts Center - 7:30pm
SA Nov. 23 Chicago, IL - Old Town School of Folk Music - 8pm

For the latest tour info, visit www.robinandlinda.com or www.redhouserecords.com.

PRESS QUOTES

“inviting and intimate...These folks have ascended to the “treasure” category.”

- *Nashville Scene*

“Robin and Linda Williams...still deliver fresh and exciting music via stellar original songs and indelible performances.”

- *Vintage Guitar*

“this long-standing duo has grown sweeter over the years, but you can still hear the lonesome echo of Hank Williams in their gorgeous harmonizing.”

- *Utne Reader*

“half of the hacks on Music Row should sit at this act’s feet for song-writing lessons. This is that legendary thing. The Real Deal.”

- *Music Row*

“Robin & Linda Williams shine like a diamond amid rhinestones...their sound is so sincere as to give the listener chills.”

- *Boston Globe*

“no-frills, boiled-down country”

- *Houston Press*

“Robin and Linda Williams just make it look easy. They consistently put out beautifully produced recordings”

- *Sing Out!*