

This CD is for Cindy – each and every word.

– Love, Jesse

These were my thoughts the first time I heard a Jesse Winchester song. “The Sky Is Red From Off Towards New Orleans.’ Wow! How could a guy with roots in Bossier City, Tupelo and Memphis capture the simple essence of the Gulf Coast better than someone who was born there? I’d better get to work.”

Years later, I am living on the tiny Creole island of St. Barth’s, grappling with the task of learning French, so that I could one day write a song partially in French, when Jesse comes along again with “L’Air de la Louisiane” – a whole song in French.

It did not take me long to figure out that the best thing to do was not compete with the master of, in my humble opinion, some of the best understated and beautiful songs that have ever been written by war babies. If you can’t beat ’em, use ’em. If I was “ground control,” Jesse was “Major Tom.” I needed to make contact, but that took a lot longer than expected.

Our friendship, though, developed through e-mails, phone calls and stories shared by friends. Then, in the summer of 2011, Jesse generously

offered his services to our “Concert For The Gulf.” There probably wasn’t a more appropriate place for our first face-to-face meeting. It was a day of mixed emotions: happiness at finally meeting, excitement at singing together for the first time ever, and seriousness as to what had brought us to the shores of the Gulf of Mexico. Singing “Biloxi” and using his words to try and re-ignite a sense of hope to the audience of 65,000 local residents affected by the BP Oil Spill, was one of the most fond memories I have as a performer.

That was not just the first, it was also the last time we ever performed together. I will miss him, but the life and works of Jesse Winchester have not been capped, like an oil well gone wild on the floor of the Gulf, by his passing. They flow even stronger today, with this album. In my way of thinking, Jesse may no longer reside in the world of matter, but his energy sure as hell does. It is timeless and eternal and will be with us always from Montreal to Memphis, to those red skies off toward New Orleans.

– Jimmy Buffett

Mangrove Cay, Andros Island, Bahamas



To begin to try and define or explain Jesse Winchester, one immediately uses more words than Jesse would have ever spent on himself. As a performer, a musician, a singer and songwriter, he holds his own in any company. A soft-spoken gentle soul with carefully chosen powerful words to say, Jesse stands out without trying and sets the bar high for the rest of us.

From my perspective, this project began as a

chance to work with one of my true musical heroes. Everyone who played or sang or worked in any capacity was blessed by the opportunity and blessed again by the experience.

Jesse wrote this group of songs while going through cancer treatment and was from the beginning concerned that it not be a “heavy” or “dark” project because he himself was neither of those things. Consequently, we added a couple of “doo wop” songs he sang in his early years to lighten the picture, and in his own songs his humor is always present, even in the most serious framework.

Billy and Dodee Crockett at Blue Rock Artist Ranch planted the seed that grew into what turns out to be Jesse’s last studio project. I can’t thank them enough.

We did a songwriting class while we were at Blue Rock cutting the tracks and one of the students asked Jesse what was the key to writing good music. Jesse’s reply...

“Say what needs saying...and then try not to say anything else.”

— Mac McAnally

Jesse Winchester: lead & backing vocals, acoustic guitar, keyboard

Mac McAnally: electric & acoustic guitars, mandola, keyboards, backing vocals

Roscoe Beck: electric bass, upright bass

Eric Darken: all kinds of percussion

Lenny LeBlanc: backing vocals

Jerry Douglas: lap steel guitar (2, 7)

Joel Guzman: accordion (5, 7)

Stuart Duncan: fiddle (5)

Jim Horn: saxophone (8, 11)

Produced by **Mac McAnally**

Mastered at Yes Master by **Jim Demain**

Basic tracks recorded at **Blue Rock Artist Ranch**

Engineered by **Charlie Kramsky**

Overdubs and mixing at **LaLaLand**

Engineered by **Chris Stone**

Additional overdubs recorded at:

Southern Ground: Engineered by **Chris Stone**

The Complex: Engineered by **Kevin Sokolnicki**

Cover art: a watercolor painted by Jesse Winchester in 1969 as a gift to his mother after he had moved to Canada from Memphis. The song "Ghost" is also for his mother, a companion piece to the art.

The title of this CD was taken from one of Jesse's favorite books and movies, "The Maltese Falcon" by Dashiell Hammett. In the movie, Humphrey Bogart famously states, "I don't mind a reasonable amount of trouble," a line that amused Jesse and which he frequently quoted.

Photography: **Rodney Bursiel**

Packaging Design: **Tina Galbiati**, GalbiatiDesigns.com

Post-production Coordinator: **Alan Edwards**

The lyrics for Jesse's songs on this CD can be found at www.appleseedmusic.com

A special thanks from Cindy Winchester to:

Bill Flanagan, Mac McAnally, Jimmy Buffett, and Elvis Costello

Billy and Dodee Crockett and all the folks at Blue Rock **Jim Musselman** and **Alan Edwards** for their loyal support

Keith Case, booking agent extraordinaire and valued friend

Jesse was one of the most wonderful artists that we have ever had the pleasure to work with. He was always grateful and appreciative, a gentleman in every way. We will miss you, Jesse.

– **Jim Musselman and Alan Edwards** (*Appleseed*)

Also by Jesse Winchester on Appleseed:

APR CD 1116 *Love Filling Station*

Also, please check out Quiet About It, a tribute to Jesse Winchester featuring James Taylor, Elvis Costello, Rosanne Cash, Jimmy Buffett and others on Mailboat Records – <http://www.mailboatrecords.com/jesse-winchester.html>


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