

THE DEEP DARK WOODS

Jubilee

Leave your map and lose your bearings in the swirling sonic forest of The Deep Dark Woods. The band returns from the wilderness with *Jubilee*, a celebration of community, camaraderie and feverish cabin creativity. With *Jubilee*, The Deep Dark Woods revel in the jangly, freewheeling days of psychedelic and electric folk while keeping their compass aligned with the magnetic, hypnotic north.

Made in a cabin in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains near Bragg Creek, Alberta, *Jubilee* journeys through folk and rock history, from California to the UK, from the 1970s to the present day. The album nods to genre pioneers such as The Byrds and Fairport Convention before heading into altogether new territory of soundscapes that bend and fluctuate underfoot. *Jubilee* moves the yardstick with its rolling layers of specialized keys, organs and analog rarities (e.g., novachord, celesta, vibraphone, and more, played primarily by Geoff Hilhorst) first used in the early days of psychedelic-synth experimentation, and the results sound at once in and out of modern time.

The album strengthens the senses of dislocation and loneliness that characterize The Deep Dark Woods' distinct approach. The title references the song "Gonna Have A Jubilee," an invite to a party in the hereafter. The choice of the word 'Jubilee' is both a wry existentialist lament, and a "tongue in cheek observation" about the band's typically melancholic output, says Lucas Goetz (drums/percussion/pedal steel). It also speaks to the recording experience, says vocalist/guitarist Chris Mason, "the feeling of accomplishment and bonding" that took place.

Since the release of 2011's *The Place I Left Behind*, for which the band received a Juno nomination, Americana Emerging Artist nomination and a Canadian Folk Music Award, the lineup has changed to include guitarist Clayton Linthicum. Linthicum's talent for English style guitar playing shines on *Jubilee*, in particular on the standout song "18th of December." "It's something we've tried in the past but haven't been able to fully accomplish until Clayton joined up," Boldt says of the song, his "first attempt at a Fairport Convention type song."

The tight-knit members of The Deep Dark Woods are old friends and trusted

collaborators. Lead singer Ryan Boldt writes most of the lyrics, but songwriting credits on *Jubilee* are also shared with Chris Mason, former bandmate Burke Barlow and new addition Clayton Linthicum. The band recorded *Jubilee* mostly live off the floor, which allowed for a collective and often spontaneous approach to songcraft. Lyrically, *Jubilee* shows artistic growth and finesse, and the new album features some of band's finest songs yet.

Fond of and adept at improvisation and experimentation on stage, The Deep Dark Woods have cultivated a moveable scene of like-minded artists. The desire to translate the intuitive aspects of their live performances to a record led them to producer Jonathan Wilson. As patron saint of the present-day Laurel Canyon folk revival, which breathes new life into California's richly experimental musical history, Wilson is a going concern in the woozy world of neo-psychedelic breakout acts, most notably as producer of Father John Misty's 2012 success *Fear Fun*. "His involvement with some musicians who have had an influence on us also tipped us off that maybe this was the right guy. They had a vast knowledge of the equipment and techniques that were used to make some of our favorite records," Goetz says of the choice to work with Wilson and engineer Bryce Gonzales, who both joined the band during the two-week cabin recording experience.

The Deep Dark Woods have appeared at numerous high-profile festivals and on many prestigious stages, including Newport Folk Fest, Bonnaroo, Austin City Limits, and at Terrapin Crossroads in San Francisco, where they were joined by jam-band legend Phil Lesh. The band has made a fan of influential BBC roots guru Bob Harris, and recently made their silver screen debut with the inclusion of their song "My Baby's Got To Pay the Rent" in *Safe Haven*, the newest Nicholas Sparks blockbuster.

In addition, The Deep Dark Woods won Best Roots Group at the 2009 Western Canadian Music Awards and Ensemble of the Year at the 2009 Canadian Folk Music Awards. The band also had the runaway winner in CBC's Great Canadian Songquest with "Charlie's (Is Coming Down)", a song about Good Time Charlie's in Regina.

Jubilee will be released on October 1, 2013 on Sugar Hill Records (USA, Europe, Australia) and Six Shooter Records (Canada).