

# RED HOUSE RECORDS

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## THE SMALL GLORIES

### 'ASSINIBOINE & THE RED'

June 28, 2019; Red House Records

*"Luft is a Wailin' Jennys alum whose work on the clawhammer banjo is to die for, while Edwards' guitar and vocal harmonies deepen and enrich the duo's sound." - NPR "Austin 100"*



Powerhouse Canadian duo **The Small Glories** will release their Red House Records' debut, **ASSINIBOINE & THE RED**, worldwide on June 28. The album title references the junction of two rivers, the Assiniboine (pronounced 'uh-sin-uh-boin') and the Red in the duo's hometown of Winnipeg, Manitoba. The album celebrates the happenstance meeting of members **Cara Luft**, an original member of the Wailin' Jennys, and multi-instrumentalist **JD Edwards** with an exuberant collection of songs that evoke the wide-open vistas of the Canadian Prairies.

Luft and Edwards' onstage chemistry and humor complements their energetic live performances and buoyant, Americana-inflected folk songs. *Paste Magazine* wrote of their first single, "Oh My Love" -- "Luft and Edwards sound right at home together, and they may soon join duos like *Mandolin Orange* and *Shovels & Rope* among the ranks of *Americana* prestige."

Recorded in Winnipeg, Manitoba during a bracingly cold Canadian spring, **ASSINIBOINE & THE RED** reunited the duo with producer **Neil Osborne**, frontman and songwriter for the iconic Canadian rock band **54-40**.

"Although he's not a 'folk artist,' he has the heart of a folk singer and firmly believes in the power of song and in serving the song," says Luft of Osborne. "He also believed in the importance of keeping us rooted in our folk/roots tradition; he didn't want us to stray too far outside the box."

"We're folk singers, we try to write stuff that people can relate to," says Edwards, whose looming stage presence and penetrating eyes find him the yin to Luft's petite, snort-laughing yang.

"I remember being very excited about this collection of songs and getting to record them at home in Winnipeg," Edwards says. "I was so glad to hear that **Gilles Fournier** (bass) and **Mark Mariash** (percussion/rums) agreed to come back and record another album with us. Getting the band back together along with Neil Osborne at the helm had my mind thinking of how we were going to be taking these songs to places we had never dreamed of going."

The album's songs do play out like travelogue of sorts. **ASSINIBOINE & THE RED** is rich with a sense of place and geography and is bookended by two songs that pay tribute to locales. The opener, "Alberta," is a love song to Luft's home

province and is "dedicated to anyone who is new to a place and surprises themselves by having their heart stolen by the land." The raucous closing track, "Winnipeg," is a spirited celebration of their hometown, "a city full of heart and guts and soul," Luft says. "It's a city of many languages and cultures where a big beautiful sun, the great equalizer, shines down on everyone all year long."

Other stand-out tracks include "Long Long Moon," written on the island province of Prince Edward Island, where the history and stories of a sea-faring community inspired this song of loss, love, and waiting. "Don't Back Down" was written for all the dying small prairie towns, and their sister Maritime towns that are experiencing a mass exodus, and for those who have chosen to stay.

Luft describes an audience favorite, "Sing," as a protest song for our time. "It's a song to roust us out of our complacency and our indifference, a song to challenge our era of divisiveness and polarization to remind us what 'it' is all about, and what it's not," she says.

"Each of the songs on the album is a co-write, either between the two of us," Luft explains, "or between us and other writers, which we feel has helped created a very unique and powerful collection of songs." Co-writers include some of Canada's finest — **Lynn Miles, James Keelaghan, Catherine MacLellan, Bruce Gurthro, Ashley Condon and Andrina Turenne** — as well as American poet **Glenn Bowie**.

"Many of the songs were written around the theme of home — where we call home, where others call home — and the various stories and histories and landscape of these specific locations. We focused on Canadian places; we are Canadian after all!"

Already known in their native Canada as well as for their performances at international festivals including SXSW and AmericanaFest, the duo has captured the charm and chemistry of their live shows with *ASSINIBOINE & THE RED*'s collection of engaging, memorable songs.

#### TRACK LISTING:

1. Alberta
2. Long Long Moon
3. Oh My Love
4. Johnson Slide
5. Sing
6. Don't Back Down
7. Secondhand
8. Pieces of Me
9. You Can't Be High
10. Winnipeg