

# RED HOUSE RECORDS

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## Carrie Elkin CALL IT MY GARDEN

RHR-CD-237 • Release Date: January 25, 2011

Breakout album from Austin's next Americana gem!

Red House Records is pleased to announce the January 25, 2011 release of *Call It My Garden*, the label debut from Austin artist

**Carrie Elkin**. A singer-songwriter known for her dynamic vocals and “warm, earthy poetry” (*Maverick Magazine*), she has built up a significant fan following on both sides of the Atlantic, playing some of the most prestigious clubs and theaters as well as major festivals like **Lilith Fair**, **South By Southwest (SXSW)** and **Falcon Ridge**.

Certain to be a hit on folk and Americana radio as well as the breakout album for this young talent, *Call It My Garden* is a sparkling mix of folk, Americana and string band sounds. Her vocals are vibrant and soulful, delivering heartfelt songs about how to plant one's own garden and live with beauty and personal integrity.

“My music is my family, my home, my garden” Carrie says. From **Rodney Bursiel**'s stunning photography to **Vanessa Lively**'s beautiful album art, the album is a locally grown project, designed and recorded in Austin, Texas. Capturing the collaborative spirit of her hometown, she recorded the tracks live with friends in songwriter **Sam Baker**'s living room, kitchen and office. Artists on the album include people she's toured with like **Raina Rose**, **Robby Hecht**, **AJ Roach**, **Anthony Da Costa** and **Storyhill's John Hermanson**. “My ‘folk family’ is what keeps me going, and there's nothing like making music with the people you love. There was a beautiful mix of professionalism and ridiculousness. We laughed a lot.”

Produced by frequent collaborators **Colin Brooks** of **The Band of Heathens** and Red House artist **Danny Schmidt**, the album captures the joyful spirit and intimacy that only happens between friends. Up-tempo tracks like “**Jesse Likes Birds**” and “**Guilty Hands**” are reminiscent of a jubilant down-home hootenanny while tracks like “**Lift Up the Anchor**” and “**Dear Sam**” (written for Sam Baker and featuring him on harmony vocals) sound like whispered late-night confessions.

Carrie's poignant, often personal, originals are mixed in with a lovely cover of **Dar Williams**' “**Iowa**,” a song that she says rings true in every stage of her life. That honest spirit permeates the album, right through to “**Edge of the World**,” the final track.

“I felt like it would be nice closure for the record,” Carrie says. “The theme of the song ties the whole production vision and greater theme of the album together. It's about pushing the edge of your boundaries and taking great leaps of faith.” Taking that leap, Carrie and the band recorded the song in the first take with no rehearsals. Wonderfully ragged and romantic, this wild carnival of a song takes on an anthemic quality and illustrates the organic way in which the album was created. Authentic and beautiful, Carrie's album truly is a garden of heirloom riches, sweet from start to finish.

Supporting her album, Carrie will be on tour throughout the US and Europe in 2011 and will showcase at **SXSW** and the **International Folk Alliance Conference**. For her full tour schedule, visit her website at [www.carriekin.com](http://www.carriekin.com) or [www.redhousetrecords.com](http://www.redhousetrecords.com).

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## BIOGRAPHY

**Carrie Elkin** is a soulful singer with a gypsy spirit, a songwriter with a keen eye. Inspired by her travels and the many places she has called home-- Ohio, New Mexico, Colorado, Boston, Austin--she documents the human condition with sensitivity and humor, crafting songs that have garnered attention at prestigious songwriting contests, including **Mountain Stage NewSong** and the **Falcon Ridge Emerging Artist Showcase**.

Carrie is a born performer, possessing an infectious energy that cannot be contained. As *Maverick Magazine* so eloquently put it: "We have never seen a performer so in love with the act of singing. Onstage Elkin was simply a force of nature." With her dazzling voice and unpretentious charm, she wins over new fans at every show, whether playing at a headlining club gig, singing the national anthem in front of 20,000 at a **Chicago Bulls** game or opening for artists like **Jesse Winchester**, **The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band** and **Greg Brown**.

Although Carrie got her musical start young, singing in church and playing the saxophone, she lived an extremely diverse and active young life. She competed as a **National Champion acro gymnast**, which led to an eventual invitation to join the circus. Instead, she studied physiology at Ohio University and became an organic chemist. But music never left her blood, and the attention she was gaining from her songwriting quickly stole her away from the academic world, as she began to record and tour across the country.

After settling in Austin, Texas in 2007, she recorded her album *The Jeopardy of Circumstance*. Produced by **Colin Brooks (The Band of Heathens)**, the album received rave reviews in the US and the UK that shot her up the Euro-Americana Charts and landed her a spot on Bob Harris' national **BBC Radio** show and several prestigious festival invitations.

Hot on the heels of her recent success, comes Carrie's new album *Call It My Garden*. This debut on Grammy-winning folk label **Red House Records** was produced by Colin Brooks and **Danny Schmidt** and features many of Carrie's close musical friends, including **Sam Baker**, **Raina Rose**, **Robby Hecht**, **AJ Roach**, **Anthony Da Costa** and **Storyhill's John Hermanson**.

Supporting her album, Carrie will be on tour throughout the US and Europe in 2011 and will showcase at the **South By Southwest (SXSW) Music Festival** and the **International Folk Alliance Conference**. For her full tour schedule, visit [www.carriemelkin.com](http://www.carriemelkin.com) or [www.redhouserecords.com](http://www.redhouserecords.com).

## QUOTES

"I'm thinking Patty Griffin, Nanci Griffith and Iris DeMent....spellbinding from the opening track"  
- **BBC Radio**

"Carrie Elkin's songs are, at once, intimate yet universal, naked yet richly adorned. Her voice is simply revelatory"  
- **FolkWax**

"Instantly likeable, clever and rewarding"  
- **Maverick Magazine**

"Carrie Elkin displays one of the most powerful female voices"  
- **Cleveland Scene**

"Very few people in this world can captivate an audience with just a voice and a guitar the way Carrie Elkin can."  
- **Athens Music Network**

"She is a serious songwriter and a gifted vocalist...Elkin is going places."  
- **Steamboat Pilot**



## **ABOUT THE SONGS** by *Carrie Elkin*

- 1. JESSE LIKES BIRDS:** This is a sweet little ditty I wrote for a wonderful songwriter, Jesse DeNatale. We friended each other on Myspace some time ago and I took a peek at his list of “influences.” It seems he has a SLEW of them. His list was incredibly sweet. And funny.
- 2. GUILTY HANDS:** I grew up singing in church, and my first solo was in Latin, which I thought was pretty cool. The Latin translates to “Where clarity and love are found, God is there.” That lyric has always stuck with me, so I incorporated it into a bit of a gospel number. A song of questioning and a bit of despair, I think.
- 3. LIFT UP THE ANCHOR:** I wrote this song following a stream of crap luck. It had been storming hard in Austin for over a week and it was quite cold. I guess I’m just asking for help in this song, because that’s what I needed at the time. It worked.
- 4. THE THINGS WE’RE AFRAID OF:** This was written after a conversation I had with a gentleman getting ready to retire. He seemed to be quite afraid of retirement. I took it as him having to face his life without the distraction of work and how scary that must be. This then translated to everyone’s life I know, retired or not. Funny how that happens.
- 5. IOWA:** Written by Dar Williams. This song, at every stage of my life, rings true with me. One of my very favorites.
- 6. LANDETH BY SEA:** This song transpired from a specific situation, but in reality it’s just about the different stages of relationships and certain circumstances that put the relationship under a microscope. It’s about facing commitment and deciding if the relationship has gone far enough or if it should continue.
- 7. SHOTS RANG OUT:** I wrote this after spending the night in jail. I had a cellmate who made absolutely no sense at all. BUT, she did tell a few random stories that were worthy of a song. It was quite sad. Broke my heart. I think of this song as a short movie of sorts.
- 8. BERLIN:** This is an old song of mine. Recorded for the third time. It’s the song that made me want to write music for the rest of my life. For me, it’s about setting myself free. Or something.
- 9. ST. LOUIS:** I met a man on a plane once that had quite an impact on me. And it got me thinking about how easy it is to THINK life can be better after a beautiful connection with a random person. I like those moments. I also like knowing how good life is at home. It became the title track of the record.
- 10. DEAR SAM:** A little song I wrote for Sam Baker. A thank-you, if you will. Sam was on a train in Peru many years ago that was blown up by a terrorist bomb. He was one of the only survivors. This song is about what a beautiful human he is despite having gone through something so horrific. He sings with me on it, which was one of the most magical moments of the project.
- 11. EDGE OF THE WORLD:** We did this song in one take and with no rehearsals. We wanted it to have a sort of a "carnival rolling out of town" quality to it, ragged and romantic. I felt like it would be nice closure for the record, since the theme of the song ties the whole production vision and greater theme of the album together . . . about pushing the edge of your boundaries and taking great leaps of faith. The looks on all the musicians faces at the end of the take said it all to me: puzzled and enthralled and wondering what on earth we had just done . . . and was it a good thing? That's the edge I'd like to live more of my life on.