



**THE SONGS OF WOODY GUTHRIE, VOL. 1 & 2, A NEW TWO-CD SET BUNDLING JOEL RAFAEL'S PAIR OF ACCLAIMED COMPILATIONS OF THE FOLK LEGEND'S MUSIC, JUST RELEASED BY INSIDE RECORDINGS**

Los Angeles, CA, September 16, 2009: Southern California-based singer-songwriter **Joel Rafael** is celebrated as one of music's foremost interpreters of the work of American folk icon **Woody Guthrie**. **Rafael** has previously released two acclaimed compilations of **Guthrie's** songs. **Inside Recordings**—the independent label to which **Rafael** has been signed since 2000—has just reissued these two collections together in a new bundled package, **THE SONGS OF WOODY GUTHRIE, VOL. 1 & 2**. The specially priced 2-disc set, released September 15, 2009, retails for \$18.98.

**Nora Guthrie**, **Woody Guthrie's** daughter and the director of the **Woody Guthrie Archives**, has said, "I think the thing I find refreshing in **Joel's** interpretations is the simplicity of them. . . I find myself strangely comforted when I listen to **Joel's** recordings of my father's songs."

**Joel Rafael's** first recorded tribute to **Guthrie**, **Woodeye: The Songs of Woody Guthrie, Volume 1**, was originally released in 2003. The album features guest vocals by **Van Dyke Parks** and **Jennifer Warnes**. **Woodyboye: The Songs of Woody Guthrie, Volume 2**, followed in 2005. In its review of **Woodyboye**, *Rolling Stone* wrote, "Don't miss the moving version of **Guthrie's** 'Stepstone,' which finds **Rafael** sharing vocal duties with **Jackson Browne** and another **Guthrie** admirer by the name of **Arlo**."

Several songs on **THE SONGS OF WOODY GUTHRIE, VOL. 1 & 2** feature original music composed by **Rafael** specifically for previously unpublished lyrics by **Woody Guthrie**. **Nora Guthrie** had entrusted the lyrics to **Rafael** as part of her vision for building the legacy of her father's written and illustrated works. These tracks include "Ramblin' Reckless Hobo," "Dance Around My Atom Fire," "Love Thyself," "Your Sandal String," and "Dance A Little Longer."

Featuring both albums in their entirety, **THE SONGS OF WOODY GUTHRIE, VOL. 1 & 2** encompasses 26 songs on two CDs, with highlights including "When The Curfew Blows," "1913 Massacre," "Danville Girl," "Talking Oklahoma Hills," and "The Train Is Bound For Glory." What stands out on all the recordings—in the words of **Rafael's** **Inside Recordings** label mate and friend **Jackson Browne**—is, "the wonderful resonance of his voice. He's got this really warm full, American voice, very authentic kind of phrasing and no embellishment, just this very straightforward thing. . . it winds up making his voice bigger and simpler and somehow more real."

**THE SONGS OF WOODY GUTHRIE, VOL. 1 & 2** follows up **Rafael's** 2008 album of original material, **Thirteen Stories High**. Plainspoken and emotionally direct, the album's highlights included the instant-classic protest song "This Is My Country," featuring background vocals by **David Crosby** and **Graham Nash**.

**Joel Rafael** was the recipient of the **Kerrville Folk Festival's** 1995 "New Folk Emerging Songwriter Award." He has been a featured performer at the annual **Woody Guthrie Folk Festival** in Okemah, Oklahoma since its inception in 1998, and is the narrator and member of the national touring cast of the celebrated **Guthrie** revue ***Ribbon Of Highway, Endless Skyway***. **Joel Rafael** has performed with **Jackson Browne**, **Ben Harper**, **John Trudell**, **John Lee Hooker**, **Emmylou Harris**, **Steve Earle**, **Sheryl Crow** and **Crosby, Stills & Nash**.

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