



WORDS & MUSIC: THE CD

“WORDS & MUSIC NASHVILLE” is nothing less than a dream come true. To be able to go into the studio with the cream-of-the-crop of songwriters, whom I respect and admire, was a gift. The CD is not just music, it’s a work of art. It’s a labor of love for all involved and a convergence of synergy and energy. There’s no filler, just one truly amazing song after another!”

Jim Tract, Adroit President



People are talking...

“...a mixed bag of newcomers and veterans in a surprisingly wide range of styles.” **Country Weekly**

“Recommended” **Music Row, DISCLAIMER, Robert K. Oermann**

“...very much a breath of fresh air. The songs themselves are bare bones recordings often featuring nothing more than the singer and an acoustic guitar but their sheer power is enough to feel like you’ve been punched directly in the gut.” **American Country, Ken Churilla**

“Here’s a solid salute to Music City’s vast array of singer/songwriters. The set’s thematic and performance diversity reflects the many worlds these performers straddle.” **City Paper, Ron Wynn**

“I have done nothing but play those songs over and over again. WORDS & MUSIC feels like a well-written book, full of great stories and better voices.” **AllAboutCountry.com, Esther Berlanga-Ryan**

“This collection of songs combines a wide range of influences and backgrounds that lets each artist show their craft and art in the way that they do it best...in reality they are just good songs written by good songwriters regardless of genre.” **TodaysCountry.com**

“Sounds like a great night at the Bluebird Café.” **ThatNashvilleSound.com**

“Adroit Records’ WORDS & MUSIC compilation has raised a few heads in Nashville and let me just say, with good reason. These songwriters, who have mostly always been in the background of the music industry, are being placed in front of the fans. It’s a refreshing change and one that I hope continues.” **Nashville.About.com, Jan Duke**

“What a unique concept of recording the songwriters performing their original songs. It’s nice to hear a song as it was supposed to be heard.” **Strictly Country, Gina Kay Singer-house**

“10 Nashville songwriters give voice to their own songs” **Springfield News, Andrew McGinn**

“With 10 great songs, Adroit Records has presented a wonderful collection of songs that any fan of great songs and songwriting would be a fool not to pick up.” **Roughstock.com, Matt Bjorke**

“It is truly amazing to sit and listen to a song that is being performed by the songwriter, simply because that is how it was originally envisioned. WORDS & MUSIC is a defining piece of work that really highlights the important figures in Country Music.” **CountryMusicReport.com, Scott Sexton**

“It’s my firm belief that the recovery of the music business is going to start with independent offerings such as WORDS & MUSIC NASHVILLE. It all begins with quality writing.” **Ken Love, Master Engineer**

“Songwriters are the backbone of our industry. Without writers, there would be no country music, or any other kind of music, for that matter. Adroit Records has made songwriters the focus of their business, and we are always excited to promote the people behind the music.” **Inside Music Row, Brian Covert, Producer & Director**

CD PRESS RELEASE



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Jim Tract, Adroit President
ADROIT
RECORDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADROIT RECORDS RELEASES A NASHVILLE-DIRECT SINGER-SONGWRITER COMPILATION

Nashville, Tennessee: Adroit Records has announced the release of its debut compilation CD entitled WORDS & MUSIC NASHVILLE. Adroit [*meaning skillful and adept under pressing conditions*] is dedicated exclusively to generate awareness and expose the vast quantity of extraordinary music written by Nashville singer-songwriters (that may not otherwise be heard or made available via commercial media outlets) to music enthusiasts worldwide.

The label’s mission is to broaden the spectrum of music choices while providing talented tune smiths and artists the outlet and opportunity to be heard. “Words & Music Nashville is nothing less than a dream come true,” said Adroit label exec and record producer, James Tract. “To be able to go into the studio with the cream-of-the-crop of songwriters, whom I respect and admire, was a gift. The CD is not just music, it’s a work of art. It’s a labor of love for all involved, and a convergence of synergy and energy. There’s no filler, just one truly amazing song after another!”

WORDS & MUSIC is a musical storybook of soulful interpretations. From making your way in today’s world, to patriotism, mortality, infidelity, and the reality of growing up, there is a prominent emotion within each cut that folds into a unique composition. A truthful and organic presentation of tales, WORDS & MUSIC is stories shared through honest words, raw emotion and music that rings crystal clear.

Produced by Tract, the CD contains ten songs written and performed by the songwriter and features award-winning and prodigy song crafters Lucas Hoge (“Dirt”), Craig Monday (“Heaven Is A Small Town”), Vince Melamed (“Walk Away Joe”), Joshua Rush (“I Found Myself Dancing”), Brendan McKinney (“Yeah She Does”), Ray Sisk (“Memphis [Ain’t No Place to Lose the Blues]”), Cheley Tackett (“Play The One I Like”), Karleen Watt (“I’m Not Ready”), Lisa Carver (“Bullets”) and Mason Douglas (“Home Free”).

Drawn to Nashville from all over the country where they experienced life a little differently, each WORDS & MUSIC artist delivers something new, different and surprisingly unexpected, but with a common thread that is evident - they live and breathe music.

At the request of long time friend, neighbor and fan Jim Tract, Vince Melamed brought his classic “Walkaway Joe” to the project as a gesture of support not only for Adroit, but for the younger less commercially successful songwriters. “Walk Away Joe,” (“Song of The Year Award”: [Music Row Magazine/1993]), is probably the most recognized track on the CD and was transformed into a chart-topping hit by Trisha Yearwood. Lucas Hoge’s “Dirt” has been attracting national attention. Fueled by fiddles, banjos and pride, it tells the rugged truth of life in the country. In 2008, Hoge was named “Best International Country Male Artist” at the Toronto Exclusive Magazine Awards.

WORDS & MUSIC can be purchased at www.adroitrecords.com and all major digital outlets.

For more information, please visit www.adroitrecords.com.

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ADROIT RECORDS • PO Box 150762 • Nashville, TN 37215 • 615.750.3400 • www.AdroitRecords.com



WORDS & MUSIC: THE ARTISTS

“Discover ten of Music City’s most incredible songwriters performing ten absolutely amazing songs.” **Jim Tract, Adroit President**



Vince Melamed is a six-time BMI Million-Performance recipient and award-winning songwriter with a long list of hits to his credit including “Walkaway Joe,” Music Row Magazine’s “Song Of The Year” and Billboard’s No.1 song, “What Mattered Most” recorded by Ty Herndon. Melamed has scored hits for Restless Heart, Tina Turner and Phil Vasser, as well as toured with Bob Dylan, The Eagles, Jimmy Buffett, Glenn Frey, Don Henley, Dan Fogelberg and Rosanne Cash, to name a few.

Lisa Carver’s story is beyond fascinating. The youngest of five, she was raised with Gospel playing in the forefront. As a child, Carver was drawn to the dramatic musical tales; she loved the story-songs. “I believe I was born to be a songwriter. Even before I had written a song, I knew they were in me.” She arrived in Nashville in 1988 with the mission to pursue her destiny. The classically trained guitarist has since scored a number of hits including Sugarland’s “Everyday America.”

Craig Monday grew up in Luttrell, Tennessee, and has scored cuts for a number of renowned country music artists including: “Got A Little Crazy” (Kenny Chesney), “The Power of a Song” (Vince Gill/Amy Grant/Diamond Rio), “Lead Me Home” (Jamey Johnson) and “My Second 16” (Mark Wills). Craig also had cuts on the LIFETIMES CD recorded and released by Roy Lewis, Earl Scruggs and Lizzy Long.

Brendan McKinney is an internationally acclaimed singer/songwriter. Like a masterful work of art that is interpreted from many perspectives, McKinney paints his songs with many different angles in an assortment of colors. Born and raised in Philadelphia, the honest and endearing musician has toured throughout the U.S. and pierced the international music scene with his Americana tunes fused with blues and country.

Mason Douglas, an Arizona native, has made Music City Tennessee his home. With influences like Radney Foster, Rob Thomas, Chris Isaak and Garth Brooks, his talents attract music lovers of country, acoustic, soul and pop. Douglas, whose song “Home Free” stands as a patriotic masterpiece, has a growing, loyal following on the songwriter circuit and is poised to become one of country music’s most skillful and sought after tune smiths.

Cheley Tackett is from Ohio. Now a fixture on Music Row, she writes with many of Nashville’s most notable songwriters and is one of the most powerful, soulful singers in the business. Cheley writes with the deep confidence and total abandon that only a true artist is capable of. She draws her listeners in with comfortable ease and offers each and every one an original and deep personal experience. Tackett’s songs are simply mesmerizing.

Ray Sisk hails from South Carolina. He is a role model, mentor and hero to many of Nashville’s elite and talented writers. His music is reminiscent of Neal Young, Bob Dylan, Johnny Cash, the Eagles and Hank Williams, Sr.; his earthy, honest, familiarity commands a quiet attention.

Karleen Watt is a natural-born songwriter who pursues her musical dream with singular intensity. The pivotal point in steering Watt’s direction to pursue her dream came when her mom befriended Joan Baez and Crook Stewart (Baez’s manager) told the young Karleen, “You have no right not to share your gift.” From that day forward, Watt’s talent blossomed. Her emotive vocal technique represents the enormous musical diversity.

Lucas Hoge was nominated for “Male Country Singer/Songwriter of the Year” for his song “Dirt” (Hollywood Music Awards/Los Angeles Music Awards). He was also recognized with a nomination for “Country Album Of The Year” for DIRT at the 16th Annual LA Music Awards (2006) and walked away a winner.

Joshua Rush was surrounded by a musical family. He and his sister sang Gospel hymns regularly at their church and his youth attracted him to rock music. He found his roots in the country genre when he tuned in to Hank Williams, Sr., Merle Haggard and Buck Owens. His songwriting lends itself to the historic legends that made country music great. While building his repertoire of songs, Rush is also a session singer who is garnering attention as a versatile vocalist.



ADROIT RECORDS: THE EXECS

Adroit is in existence today for no other reason than to find songs and bring them to a public that is starving for the kind of visceral and emotional experience that they're not likely to hear on today's radio playlists."

Jim Tract, Adroit President



James C. Tract: President, Adroit Records

This industry entrepreneur has tackled the music business from numerous perspectives and his latest venture is creating a new model record label dedicated to Nashville songwriters. What began as a passion at age nine when his music publisher-uncle would provide him with 45 rpm singles of every genre of popular music, has resulted in a lifelong career of guiding talented artists through the creative ins and outs of the recording industry. In his teens and early 20s, Tract worked at the Main Point, a performance venue in Bryn Mawr, PA, coordinating sound and lights for artists such as Bruce Springsteen, Jackson Browne and James Taylor to name a few.

Tract expanded his experience to the publishing, marketing and management fields while in LA producing Jonathan Cain and Craig Bickhardt's band, Wire and Wood. He later launched Richard Perry's label Planet Records, serving as General Manager as well as the partnered state of the art recording studio, Studio 55. It was during this period that his producer credits began to explode. He mixed several tracks for the Pointer Sisters including "I'm So Excited" and "Jump (For My Love)," the Grammy Award winner for Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group Vocal in 1984. These successes lead to an extensive tour with the group where Tract designed sound in addition to PR and promotion campaigns. His studio resumé would expand to include projects by Willie Nelson, Diana Ross, Donna Summer, Rod Stewart, Paul Simon, Thelma Houston and Elton John.

While at Planet Records, Richard Perry and Michelle Phillips of the Mamas and the Papas turned to Tract for his guidance with four unknown teenagers Chyna Phillips, Owen Elliot, and Carnie and Wendy Wilson. Wilson Phillips was born with their debut album going on to be certified platinum five times by RIAA. After a long and successful run at Planet Records, the label was sold and Tract decided to take a hiatus to rear three children. While visiting Nashville, he fell in love with the city and the Bluebird Café. "It reminded me so much of the Main Point and a time when music was pure, honest and organic," says Tract. It's this interaction with Music City that spawned the mission and idea that developed into Adroit Records. "This business would not exist without the talent, inspiration, wisdom, and magic of the songwriters. Adroit Records was created as a safe haven for songwriters to present a quality of music to the public that they are less likely to hear through normal channels.

Tim Boylan: CEO, Adroit Records

Tim Boylan is cofounder of Adroit Records, formed with cofounder James C. Tract in October, 2007. Prior to the formation of Adroit Records, Boylan spent 35 years in the industrial manufacturing and engineering sectors. Boylan, who holds an MBA from the Wharton School at Pennsylvania University and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Pennsylvania State University, grew up in Wynnewood, PA, just outside of Philadelphia as a typical product of the '50s and '60s. As a teenager, Tim met Jim Tract through sports competition, mutual friends and the music scene. Years of concert-going, folk festivals and sharing a multitude of Main Point music acts cemented this long-term friendship and a deep appreciation for various styles and venues of music.

After college, while worlds apart with Jim working in the LA's record business and Tim in corporate USA, the common bond of music continued to connect the time-space continuum. Fast forward. Now, with the newfound freedom of semi-retirement, an opportunity to develop new business interests presented itself when Jim Tract presented an idea of project for championing singer-songwriters. This opened a new gateway for Tim to work with a talented and gifted friend in his medium while providing the proven skill sets in the finance and business organization areas. Jim's proposal for the project was jointly outlined and translated into a structured business plan, which while ambitious, presented a financially feasible enterprise. Subsequent market research, forecasting and budget analysis proved to pave the way to form Tract Music, LLC and fund the project, that is Adroit Records.

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