

Richard Shindell

supple, fluid, intelligent — amazing musical variety



“Shindell is a master builder of songs, yet always leading listeners toward the emotional essence of the moment or character he is evoking. As with all master craftsmen, knowing what to leave out is as important to him as what he puts in. Shindell has uncanny sense of the theater of a song, building his ballads sparsely and subtly, set to sweeping graceful melodies.”

— *The Boston Globe*

“A tour-de-force of brilliantly crafted songs, passionately delivered songs that consistently create three-dimensional visual and emotional images which move through the listener’s mind’s eye.”

— *Stereo Review*

“Shindell is a master of subtle narrative.”

— *The Wall Street Journal*

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South of Delia, **Richard Shindell's** stunning new album — his seventh — finds the artist inhabiting the words and music of his favorite songwriters. But this project is more than just a collection of covers; it is, after all, a **Richard Shindell** record. Familiar classics are transformed, and new songs receive a definitive reading.

Bruce Springsteen's “Born in the USA” has been thoroughly rehabilitated with **Shindell's** crunchy low-key groove revealing a bitter narrative of stinging hardship. **Peter Gabriel's** “Mercy Street” is whispered, stealthy, and rendered in shadowy tones. **Shindell** even reinterprets “Señor (Tales of Yankee Power),” a late seventies **Dylan** classic, stripped to its plaintive and mysterious core. But it's the handful of unfamiliar titles that may be the record's best: “The Humpback Whale” — a **Harry Robertson** song immortalized by one of **Shindell's** idols, **Nic Jones** — features a delicate and probing guitar solo from **Richard Thompson**. **Thompson** also gets to stretch out on “Texas Rangers,” elevating the old cautionary tale into a driving rocker with cascades of scorching solos.

But **Thompson's** not the only one here with range. Two songs in particular highlight **Shindell's** supple baritone and come from a new generation of songwriters: **Jeffrey Foucault's** “Northbound 35” and **Josh Ritter's** “Lawrence, KS.” Both of these tracks are as bleak, as beautiful, and as heartbreaking as any song **Shindell** has ever recorded.

Joined by a multitude of fellow first-rate musicians — **Greg Anderson**, **Eliza Gilkyson**, **Larry Campbell**, **Viktor Krauss**, **Tony Trischka**, **Lucy Kaplansky**, **Denny McDermott**, and **Lincoln Schleifer** to name a few — every song on *South of Delia* is meticulously crafted. It's **Richard Shindell** at his best and American roots music just doesn't get any better.



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