



For Immediate Release—

Julia Belle: The John Hartford Fiddle Tune Project Volume 2 Announced For February 28th Release

Featuring the most beloved female artists in the Hartford-inspired bluegrass scene; Hear “Steam Powered Aero Plane” featuring Kathy Mattea, Alison Brown, Sierra Hull, Brittany Haas, Missy Raines, and Megan Lovell out today

Nashville, TN – December 20, 2024 – In the twenty-three years since Bluegrass and Americana titan [John Hartford](#)’s passing, the witty, vibrant tunes of the Grammy-winning, river and steamboat-obsessed, flatfoot dancing legend have taken on a life of their own, creating an entire sub-genre of the American music canon. That’s thanks to not only Hartford’s pure, funny, and virtuosic catalog, but also to the family and friends attending to the late banjo and fiddle player’s legacy. In the past few years alone, Hartford’s daughter, Katie Harford Hogue, and modern-day fiddle great Matt Combs compiled a never-before-seen collection of unrecorded music in a book entitled John Hartford’s Mammoth Collection of Fiddle Tunes which quickly turned into a star-studded album, The John Hartford Fiddle Tune Project Volume 1.



Today, Hartford’s legacy takes another step into the future with the announcement of *Julia Belle: The John Hartford Fiddle Tune Project Volume 2*. Again co-produced by Hogue, along with Sharon Gilchrist and Megan Lynch Chowning, Volume 2 celebrates some of the most beloved female artists in the Hartford-inspired bluegrass scene: Rachel Baiman, Phoebe Hunt, Ginger Boatwright, Brittany Haas, Deanie Richardson, Allison de Groot, Della Mae, The Price Sisters, Uncle Earl, and many more. “The feeling of working on an all-female project is unparalleled,” says Della Mae’s IBMA Award-winning bassist and vocalist, Vickie Vaughn. “It felt powerful and developed a real sense of togetherness and community.”

Volume 2 contains thirteen new Hartford instrumental fiddle tunes and five “legacy” covers of beloved John Hartford songs, all of which take on new life under the hands—and voices—of some of the finest musicians around today. “What is so incredible is that you hear these tunes played in so many different ways, and Dad comes through on every one of them,” says Hogue. “It’s like his DNA is in the songs.” Today, with the announcement of Volume 2, one of Hartford’s most beloved songs, “Steam Powered Aereo Plane,” was released, much to the pleasure of the Goodle Family, the official-ish collective of Hartford fans worldwide.

Fronted by legendary country vocalist Kathy Mattea, the cast behind “Steam Powered Aereo Plane” delivers a mellow, true-to-the-original version of the song originally released on Hartford’s 1971 album of a slightly altered name, *Aereo-Plain*. Alison Brown, who produced the single, leads into the first verse on banjo accompanied by none other than Sierra Hull on guitar. Gradually Missy Raines brings in the bass and Larkin Poe’s Megan Lovell and the latest Punch Brothers band member Brittany Haas add their dobro and fiddle flourishments, respectively. The result is four straight minutes of pure John Hartford ethos, brought into the present day by a lineup of some of the most respected and accomplished musicians of their time—all of whom credit Hartford as an iconic influence in their musical lives.

Fans can stream or purchase “Steam Powered Aereo Plane” today at this [link](#) and pre-order or pre-save *Julia Belle: The John Hartford Fiddle Tune Project Volume 2* ahead of its February 28th release right [here](#).

For fans who can't get enough Hartford, the Hartford family has rallied their efforts around the [Goodle Family Patreon page](#): a subscription-driven home base for all things John Hartford. Whether it be archival releases, updates on the Fiddle Tune Project, or in-person/livestream fan meetups—like the upcoming installment of Mammoth Marathon Mondays. For more information, please visit johnhartford.com.

Julia Belle: The John Hartford Fiddle Tune Project Volume 2 Tracklist:

Irish Familiarity

The Julia Belle Swain

Grant Marsh & Joseph La Barge/Little Pig/Entertainment Tonight (medley)

Spirit of the South

Availability

I'm Still Here

Kenny and Mac

Merry Christmas

Learning To Smile All Over Again

Royal Box Waltz

Takes Her Clothes Off

Gasoline Alley No. 1

No End of Love

Living Up Stairs

Not Soft Enough

Don't Throw Her Down

Steam Powered Aereo Plane

Champagne Blues

More About John Hartford: One of the most respected musicians in Nashville history, John Hartford is considered a cornerstone of the newgrass movement due to his 1971 masterpiece, Aereo-Plain. He won a career four Grammy Awards, including two for his 1967 recording of "Gentle on My Mind," a third for his 1976 album Mark Twang, and a fourth for his contributions to the O Brother, Where Art Thou? soundtrack in 2000. He was posthumously inducted into the International Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame in 2010, was awarded the Americana Music Association President's Award in 2005, and the Folk Alliance "Spirit of Folk" award in 2011.