

REFERENCE MASTERCUTS

HALF-SPEED MASTERED • 180-GRAM VINYL • 45 RPM

# DOUG MACLEOD

## break<sup>the</sup> chain

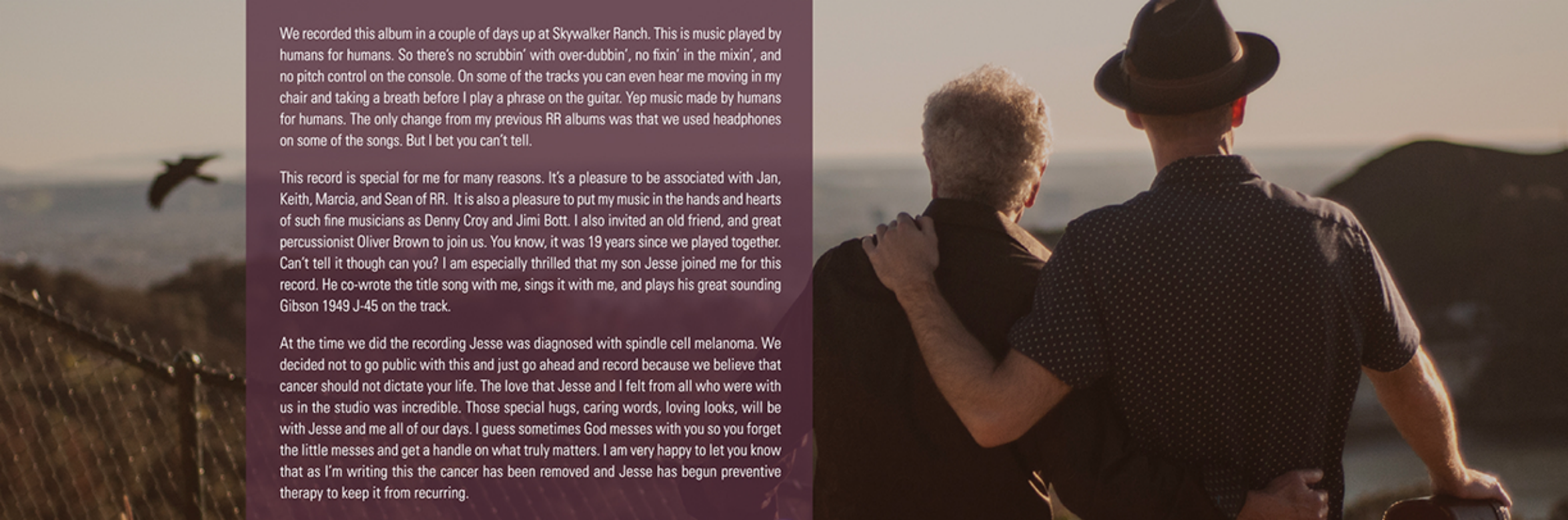


BREAK THE CHAIN | DOUG MACLEOD



A 'PROF' JOHNSON RECORDING

REFERENCE RECORDINGS  
RM-2519



We recorded this album in a couple of days up at Skywalker Ranch. This is music played by humans for humans. So there's no scrubbin' with over-dubbin', no fixin' in the mixin', and no pitch control on the console. On some of the tracks you can even hear me moving in my chair and taking a breath before I play a phrase on the guitar. Yep music made by humans for humans. The only change from my previous RR albums was that we used headphones on some of the songs. But I bet you can't tell.

This record is special for me for many reasons. It's a pleasure to be associated with Jan, Keith, Marcia, and Sean of RR. It is also a pleasure to put my music in the hands and hearts of such fine musicians as Denny Croy and Jimi Bott. I also invited an old friend, and great percussionist Oliver Brown to join us. You know, it was 19 years since we played together. Can't tell it though can you? I am especially thrilled that my son Jesse joined me for this record. He co-wrote the title song with me, sings it with me, and plays his great sounding Gibson 1949 J-45 on the track.

At the time we did the recording Jesse was diagnosed with spindle cell melanoma. We decided not to go public with this and just go ahead and record because we believe that cancer should not dictate your life. The love that Jesse and I felt from all who were with us in the studio was incredible. Those special hugs, caring words, loving looks, will be with Jesse and me all of our days. I guess sometimes God messes with you so you forget the little messes and get a handle on what truly matters. I am very happy to let you know that as I'm writing this the cancer has been removed and Jesse has begun preventive therapy to keep it from recurring.

## Now to the songs

### GOIN' DOWN TO THE ROADHOUSE

You want to beat loneliness? Get out of the house. Hear some music, eat some good food, and dance. Even if you don't find someone that night, at least you're gonna feel better because you heard some music, ate something somebody else cooked, and danced. A whole lot better than sitting on the couch, eating microwaved macaroni and cheese, watching "Law and Order" reruns on a Saturday night! I played this on Moon in Open D Tuning. Denny played the Kala UBASS with Jimi on the drums.

### MR BLOOZEMAN

Just got fed up with all the posers out there and wrote this song. I played this on Moon in Standard Tuning with Denny on the Kay upright bass and Jimi on drums.

### LONESOME FEELING

I played this one on my National NRP I call Buckwheat in a tuning I call 'Too Many D's'. This is the first recording for this guitar. We all make mistakes in life. Some you can rectify, some you can't. When you lose a love because of your mistake that's a lonesome feeling. Yeah, a lonesome feeling indeed.

### TRAVEL ON

You can't walk your whole life on mountain tops. For every mountain there's a valley. Hope lives in that. If you can keep that in mind while you're in a valley it will make it easier for you to travel on. I played this on Moon in Open D Tuning. Denny on the Kay bass and Oliver on percussion.

### ONE FOR TAMPA RED

For one of my idols. I played this on my National Style O I call Owl in Open D, with Denny on the Kay upright. Now I know Tampa Red played a Tricone and I was originally going to play it on my National Style 1.5 I call Bullet. But Owl was speaking what she wanted to say. So we decided to go with

### WHAT THE BLUES MEANS TO ME

I can't say anything more here on paper than what you'll hear on the record.

### THIS ROAD I'M WALKING

You looking for the perfect woman? You're gonna die a lonely man. 'Nuff said. I played Jug my new National M-14 in a tuning I call 'Bastard G'. Jimi played drums, Oliver played percussion, and Denny on his Kay upright bass.



### LA – THE SIREN IN THE WEST

When I first came to LA I had given up Blues. I was trying to be something I wasn't to please other people. That's a dangerous thing. I saw people being eaten up by that. I knew I had to leave. I met Shakey Jake Harris, went to his Safari Club on 54th and Vermont in South Central LA, and began finding my way back to me. I played this one on my Taylor 12-String I call Cornbread in Open G with Denny on the Kay bass.

### WHO'S DRIVING THIS BUS?

Yeah. I wonder who is really in charge. A lot of things in this world just don't add up right to me. I put a few of them in this song. I used Buckwheat tuned to 'Too Many G's'. Oliver on percussion and Denny on the Kala UBASS.

### CHURCH STREET SERENADE

I played this one on Owl in Drop D Tuning. I still have fond memories of the music and the people I knew there. This song is for that time and that street in Norfolk, VA.

### GOING HOME

This is a 'holler'. None of us is here to stay. To some that's a bad thing, to some it's a good thing, and to some others it's no thing. No matter what thing it is to you, you just visiting.

### BREAK THE CHAIN

My son Jesse and I co-wrote this song with this message. I was abused. I learned in therapy that the abused can abuse. When Jesse was a little fella I looked into his eyes and I said "No Way!" I broke the chain of abuse that had been in my family for who knows how long. Jesse and I want you to know that you too can break the chain. You have the power. Use it. I used Buckwheat in 'Too Many D's' for this one. Jesse played this on his Gibson J-45 that he named Smoke (Y'know - the apple don't fall...) in Double Drop D Tuning. Oliver on percussion and Denny on his Kay Upright bass.

### Doug MacLeod

Doug MacLeod, a prolific singer, songwriter, engaging storyteller, and masterful guitarist was born in the blues and is rooted in the American tradition. MacLeod is a perennial Blues Music Award nominee and multiple Blues Music Award winner. He recently won the 2016 Blues Music Award for Acoustic Artist Of The Year and the Blues Blast Music Award for Male Artist Of The Year. Doug received two 2017 Blues Music Award Nominations for Acoustic Artist Of The Year and Historical Album *Live In Europe*.

### Jimi Bott

Jimi Bott is one of the most recorded, awarded and respected blues drummers in the world. In 2015, he received the Blues Music Award from the Blues Foundation in Memphis. During his 30 year career he appears on more than 80 recordings and countless live performances. He lives in Portland, Oregon with his family where he owns and runs Roseleaf Recording studio.

### Denny Croy

Bassist Denny Croy got his first taste of playing the blues when, at age 17, he would go over to legendary T-Bone Walker's house to jam with him in his living room. In addition to keeping busy as a bassist, Denny Croy is an educator. He has been the exclusive bass teacher at the world famous McCabe's Guitar Shop School of Music for the past twenty years and head of McCabe's Music School for the past seven years.

### Oliver Brown

Percussionist Oliver Brown has contributed to decades of hit recordings with genre-spanning artists beginning as an original member of KC & The Sunshine Band (Get Down Tonight, That's The Way I Like It and more), on to Nancy Wilson, Jermaine Jackson, Fleetwood Mac, Al Jarreau, The Whispers, The Beach Boys, and many others. As a recording and touring artist of the first order, Oliver's percussion styling's inspire and uniquely support the work of each artist and project he participates in.

### Jesse MacLeod

Drawing comparisons to Chris Stapleton, Jason Isbel and Amos Lee, this Los Angeles based troubadour has spent the last decade seasoning his chops. Jesse MacLeod started as a hip-hop emcee grinding it out in the underground hip hop scene of LA, but in his early twenties was pulled to share his story in a different way. The son of bluesman, Doug MacLeod, Jesse grew up with his old man's music - and the truth it revealed. He has crafted a sound that is right where Americana, Roots and Soul meet.



All songs written by Doug MacLeod, published by Gaslight Square Music, administration by Little Brother Music except 'Break The Chain'. Written by Doug MacLeod and Jesse MacLeod, published by Gaslight Square Music and I Swear I'm Not From The South / BMI.

Doug MacLeod proudly endorses National Reso-Phonic Guitars, D'Addario Strings, Reunion Blues, G7th Capos, and Diamond Bottlenecks. Jimi Bott endorses DW Drums, Regal Tip Sticks, Calato Brushes. Denny Croy uses Kala UBass and Kala Metal Round Wound Strings, Oliver Brown uses LP Congas. Jesse MacLeod plays that great sounding 1949 Gibson J-45 that I really feel he should leave at his Dad's house every once and awhile.

### My thanks on this album go to in no particular order

Denny Croy | Jimi Bott | Oliver Brown | Miki Mulvehill | Jan Mancuso  
Marcia Martin | Sean Martin | The Professor - Keith O. Johnson | Mario Pronovost  
Jeff Turmes | Jan Simon | Thyra Endicott | Jonathan Chute | Jared Cotton

Finally to the two people without whom that chain may not have been broken. My wife Patti Joy. And our son Jesse who continues to do his 'Pops' so very proud. And like I always say, "My thanks to you. Because if you're reading this, you've put down some hard earned money and I appreciate that."

Doug

## DOUG MACLEOD

break<sup>the</sup>  
chain

## SIDE 1 14:18

1. GOIN' DOWN TO THE ROADHOUSE 4:08
2. MR BLOOZEMAN 4:38
3. LONESOME FEELING 5:23

## SIDE 2 12:32

1. TRAVEL ON 3:35
2. LA – THE SIREN IN THE WEST 5:14
3. ONE FOR TAMPA RED 3:43

## SIDE 3 12:28

- 1: WHO'S DRIVING THIS BUS? 4:46
- 2: THIS ROAD I'M WALKING 4:22
- 3: CHURCH STREET SERENADE 3:20

## SIDE 4 8:46

- 1: BREAK THE CHAIN 4:06
- 2: GOING HOME 1:44
- 3: WHAT THE BLUES MEANS TO ME 3:06

**Producers:** Doug MacLeod and Janice Mancuso

**Recording Engineer:** Keith O. Johnson

**Recorded by:** Sean Royce Martin

**Session assistant:** JoAnn Nunes

**Mastering Engineer:** Keith O. Johnson

**Half-Speed Mastering:** Paul Stubblebine

**Jackets:** Stoughton Printing

**180 gram discs:** Quality Record Pressing

**Heart & Soul artist management**

**P :** 651 755.7944 • miki@hsartistmgmt.com

**Tour information and more**

[www.doug-macleod.com](http://www.doug-macleod.com)

**Recorded:** October 10-13, 2016

**At Skywalker Sound,**

**Marin County, California**

**Band photo:** Janice Mancuso

**Photography:** Jared Cotton

**Graphic Design:** Mario Pronovost

**Executive Producers:** Marcia Gordon Martin and Janice Mancuso



© © 2017 REFERENCE RECORDINGS • ALL RIGHTS RESERVED  
 REFERENCE RECORDINGS, BOX 77225, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107 • MADE IN U.S.A.  
 1-800-336-8866 • SECURE ORDERING: [WWW.REFERENCERECORDINGS.COM](http://WWW.REFERENCERECORDINGS.COM)

