

T O M C H A P I N

HOLD OUR GROUND

After 60 years in the music industry, 26 albums, 3 Grammy® awards and many thousands of concerts, beloved Singer/Songwriter/Activist **Tom Chapin** is back with a new album, **Hold Our Ground**. This collection of fifteen strong tracks showcases the musicality, breadth and quality of this master storyteller.

"A joyous celebration of friendship, family, and songs that matter. Expertly played and beautifully arranged and recorded."

Matt Watroba, host of Folk With Matt Watroba on WKAR, East Lansing, MI

Forever an optimist, Tom addresses the events of the day with almost contagious hope on songs such as *Hold Our Ground Forever*, *Broadside* and *Woody Guthrie's Dream*. He also brings in the more personal with odes to his newborn grandchildren (*Oliver Beau* and *Arthur Moon*) and contemplative musings on his own mortality (*They Killed My Street* and *The Last Music Company*).

He revisits two songs from his early Greenwich Village days (*Miracle in the Rain* and *Winter Star*) when he and his brothers, Harry and Steve, were known as the first folk music ensemble to show up at gigs with a full drum kit when their dad, the legendary jazz drummer Jim Chapin, sat in with them.

Multi-instrumentalist Tom is respected by his peers as a player with impeccable chops. His guitar playing draws inspiration from various folk-fingerstyles, most notably iconic Ragtime street performer Reverend Gary Davis who Tom met in high school when he sat in on a lesson Davis taught Tom's classmate Stefan Grossman.

Several songs feature Tom's orchestral touch on the autoharp (*Common Ground*, *Roll On Your Way* and *Hold Our Ground Forever*) along with a fun lampoon of the instrument and its devotees, written and performed with John McCutcheon (*Autoharpoholic*).

Chapin's clawhammer banjo playing is informed by (who else?) lifelong mentor/friend Pete Seeger. On this recording, it is a perfect complement on many tracks to the integrated band sound, while being featured on *Walnut Valley Moon* and *The Last Music Company*.

Like Seeger, whose songs are staples in our vocabulary, Tom's songs for children have spread into school curriculums, loved by educators and students alike. *This Pretty Planet*, *Together Tomorrow* and *Family Tree* are modern day school classics. A pioneer in the kids and family music genre (as folk DJ Ron Olesco has it, "the man practically invented the contemporary

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family music genre“) whose family recordings have garnered not just myriad awards but lifelong fans who grew up on the songs and now pass them along to their own children.

During COVID quarantine, Tom and his daughters, The Chapin Sisters, started a daily online morning show for families shut inside their houses around the world. What started as a way of keeping busy and to keep his grandchildren and kids like them engaged, became a run of 200 shows ending in the summer of 2021, creating a community of fans and friends who watched “Mornings with Papa Tom and the Chapin Sisters” every day, for “a daily gift of 30 minutes of musical family fun. inviting all in lockdown around America and beyond to sing along.” *Paul Zollo, American Songwriter*

Through it all, Tom never stopped writing smart, thoughtful, funny and beautiful songs for the folk audience as well, and Hold Our Ground is his 14th album in the genre. Created with the help and talents of old friends like longtime band mates Jon Cobert and Michael Mark, his harmonizing daughters Lily and Abigail, and co-writers Si Kahn, John Forster, John McCutcheon, and Scott Ainslie. “At 77, Tom Chapin is at the top of his game...an album that is warm, wise, whimsical, and anthemic -- and very right for our times.” *John Platt, host of “Sunday Supper” on WFUV-FM, Bronx, NY*

"Hold Our Ground is a celebration of community and the human spirit. A testament to Tom Chapin's masterful ability to hold a mirror to the world we are living in and deliver songs that give us hope, inspiration and a reason to smile."
Ron Olesko, host of Traditions, on WFDU-FM, Teaneck, NJ and Folk Music Notebook