

American Beauty Project

The Musicians: Bios

Jim Lauderdale is known as a fantastic singer & performer while at the same time building his reputation as a writer's writer, a reliable source of hit material for George Strait, George Jones, Vince Gill, Patty Loveless, the Dixie Chicks, and other headliners. In 2002, Lauderdale's collaboration with Ralph Stanley, *Lost in the Lonesome Pines*, garnered him a Grammy for Best Bluegrass Album of the Year, and he was presented with both the Americana Music Association's Artist of the Year Award and Song of the Year. In addition Jim has recorded *Headed for the Hills*, his epic collaboration in 2004 with Grateful Dead lyrical wizard Robert Hunter. Most recently he released two albums simultaneously: *Country Super Hits*, which captures the essence of classic honky-tonk and mainstream country, and *Bluegrass*, which delves again into Jim's original Bluegrass material.

A multitalented, democratic collective whose participants share vocal and songwriting duties, **Ollabelle** gains strength from its members' shared sense of mission, as well as their diverse musical and personal backgrounds. Although the group initially began as a casual sideline to the musicians' individual projects, it quickly evolved into a fulltime creative entity with an unmistakable life of its own. Where Ollabelle's gospel-steeped debut album emphasized distinctive adaptations of traditional material, *Riverside Battle Songs* produced by veteran producer/multi-instrumentalist Larry Campbell, best known for his lengthy stint in Bob Dylan's band, and mixed by longtime admirer T Bone Burnett showcases the group's own compositions. Such memorable originals as "Heaven's Pearls," "Fall Back," "Dream the Fall," "Blue Northern Lights" and "Reach for Love" offer subtly riveting examples of the bandmates' vocal and instrumental interplay, mining an evocative palette of acoustic and electric textures to create singularly expressive music.

Larry Campbell is a totally self-taught musician and one of the most sought after session players in the country. He moves freely between rock, blues, country, folk and celtic as a multi-instrumentalist. He's played with B.B. King, Dolly Parton, Paul Simon, Willie Nelson, Sheryl Crow, Cyndi Lauper, k.d. Lang, Rosanne Cash, Elvis Costello, Emmylou Harris and Shawn Colvin among many others, but is probably best known for his eight year stint in Bob Dylan's band and appears on Dylan's Grammy Award winning *Love and Theft*. He is currently winning raves as a member of Phil Lesh and Friends and as a featured member of the Levon Helm Band. For his first instrumental solo release, *Rooftops*, Larry chose to pare down to one honest guitar to interpret traditional tunes, jigs, reels and a couple of his own compositions. As a producer, The Dixie Hummingbirds chose Larry to produce their 75th anniversary release, *Diamond Jubilation*, which also contains a couple of songs Larry penned himself. Other producer credits include Willie Nelson singing *He Was a Friend of Mine* for the Grammy winning soundtrack to *Brokeback Mountain*, Ollabelle's latest release, *Riverside Battle Songs*, and the soon to be released cd of Marie Knight singing the songs of Rev. Gary Davis. Larry, along with Amy Helm, is currently producing her father, Levon Helm's exciting first solo effort in many years.

Teresa Williams had the good fortune to be born into a musical family and prime music geography: the 7th generation West Tennessee farm was circled by Muscle Shoals, Tupelo, Memphis, Nashville, and Kentucky's Bluegrass. Soaking up that music, working the same cotton fields as her ancestors, with a father who didn't tolerate phoniness in life, much less in music, she earned her straight ahead delivery as a child singer at "revivals" and "singings with dinner on the ground". Making the leap to NYC, maneuvering extreme culture shock, she sang lead with various groups, worked as a session singer and with favorite singers Bonnie Bramlett, Buddy and Julie Miller, Emmylou Harris, Peter Wolf and currently with Levon Helm. She created the role of Sara Carter, lead singer of the Original Carter Family, in *Keep on the Sunny*

Side and portrayed Sara in the BBC documentary, *Lost Highway*, and the PBS documentary, *The Carter Family: Will the Circle Be Unbroken*.

Catherine Russell's performance and recording credits read like a who's who of trendsetters in recent popular musical culture, including David Bowie, Jackson Browne, Paul Simon, Steely Dan, Cyndi Lauper, Michael Feinstein, Rosanne Cash, Dr. John, and Madonna, among others. A native New Yorker, Catherine has an enviable jazz pedigree. She is the daughter of jazz legends, Luis Russell (long-time bandleader for Louis Armstrong) and bassist/vocalist Carline Ray. Not surprisingly, considering her roots, Catherine is a one of a kind vocalist. Her singing encompasses jazz balladry, bordello blues, dance hall swing, jump blues, country, soul, and pop. **Catherine Russell** embodies the deepest heart of American Music in a single voice. "Hear the real thing," says legendary critic Nat Hentoff. "The most exciting debut album I've heard in a long time." writes Will Friedwald, of her debut album, *Cat*. Released in the spring of 2006 to rave reviews, *Cat* includes a version of the Grateful Dead's "New Speedway Boogie", placing the song and songwriters Jerry Garcia and Robert Hunter in the context of The Great American Songbook. Catherine has appeared nationally on The Tavis Smiley Show-PBS TV, JazzSet on NPR, and Mountain Stage Radio Show.

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Conceived by

David Spelman

Producer and Artistic Director of the New York premier

David Spelman has been making and producing music for more than fifteen years as a global impresario, busker, flack, and patron of the arts. As Artistic Director of the biannual New York Guitar Festival (b. 1999), David has earned plaudits from the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times* and websites that only guitarists bother to read. David has produced epic tribute concerts to Bruce Springsteen and Bob Dylan (Bruce showed, Bob didn't), oversees the Wall-To-Wall Guitar Festival at the University of Illinois' Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, and will get to taste many Australian wines at their sources as the Artistic Advisor of the annual Adelaide International Guitar Festival, launching in November 2007. David has trained in conservatories, luthiery shops, and the Prague Metro (the lattermost was the most lucrative). A former owner of a New York-based publicity firm, David did not author this bio. First Dead show attended: Capital Centre, Landover, MD, November 8, 1979.