



RELEASE SHEET

NEW RELEASE, AVAILABLE 14 FEBRUARY



April Verch

Take Me Back

RRCR 7062

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CD _____

"When you see April Verch perform, the first thing that strikes you is the pure energy that infuses her fiddle playing and step dancing. When you listen to *Take Me Back*, though, what draws you in are more subtle things – her confident, winsome singing; the finely detailed elegance of her fiddle phrasing, and the depth of a repertoire that ranges through material from Americana mainstays Buddy and Julie Miller to simple country songs, from rollicking tunes from her native Ottawa Valley to sparkling original instrumentals. *Take Me Back* is rooted in a deep musical tradition, yet it also serves notice that April Verch has taken a bold step forward and stands on the threshold of a new and exciting stage of her career". –Jon Weisberger

Rounder Records' Ken Irwin spotted her at the annual Folk Alliance conference in 2000, April—when she was still in her early 20s—and was already a self-assured, vibrant performer. Signed to the label on the spot, she released *Verchusosity*, her first Rounder CD, almost immediately. Earning rave reviews and a JUNO ("Canadian Grammy") award nomination, the album also served to introduce her to new audiences in the US, where she has appeared at venues ranging from Washington, DC's Kennedy Center to bluegrass and folk festivals across the country.

With the release of *From Where I Stand* in 2003, April added a new dimension to her music, making her singing debut on songs like the Carter Family favorite, "I'll Be All Smiles Tonight" and Greg Trooper's "Light In The Window." Produced by old-time music favorite Bruce Molsky, the CD confirmed the growth of her musical palette with a mixture of original and traditional tunes in French Canadian, Appalachian and Latin-flavored styles—along with a healthy measure of Ottawa Valley material.

With roots music master Dirk Powell as producer, and recorded with local musicians at his Louisiana studio, *Take Me Back* builds on the strengths of *From Where I Stand* with a new emphasis on songs and arrangements with broad, yet roots-leaning appeal. Dipping again into the inexhaustible well of the Ottawa Valley repertoire, April resurrects undeservedly obscure tunes from regional fiddle heroes like Reg Hill, as well as the charming 60s era country song, "This Ottawa Valley Of Mine," and weaves rare French Canadian tunes culled from the record collection of the legendary Graham Townsend (bequeathed to her by Townsend's family) together with originals that reflect the depth to which she has internalized tradition. Other originals testify to her grasp of even more musical idioms, from the Appalachian drive of "Tom, Brad and Alice" to the jazz-inflected lope of "Monarch," written with frequent collaborator Taylor Buckley. With backing from Powell, Marc Bru, pianist Benoit Legault (who appeared on *From Where I Stand*), members of the Red Stick Ramblers and other colleagues of the producer, April offers convincing proof that her supple, inventive fiddling is more powerful than ever.

Still, it's the remainder of the album that is, in many ways, the most important, for here April Verch shows that in the two years that have elapsed since her vocal debut, she has pursued singing with the same passion and determination that have informed her dancing and fiddle playing from the very start. Turning to songwriters Miller, Julie Miller and Claire Lynch, and making occasional, tasteful use of electric guitar and drums, April brings a new dimension to her work, delivering songs of intense, often dark emotion with an expressive vocal depth that belies not only the short time that's passed since she began singing, but also her age. Indeed, whether you're a long-time fan of or a newcomer to April Verch's music, these are performances that will come as a revelation.

Track List:

1. Take Me Back 3:46
2. Grand Slaque 5:27
3. All in a Night 4:06
4. Monarch 4:20
5. I Still Cry 4:20
6. Eclipse 4:31
7. Bride of Jesus 3:12
8. Loggers in the Short Grass 2:58
9. Tennessee Wagoner 3:15
10. Cruel Moon 3:32
11. Seven Years 2:55
12. Tom, Brad & Alice 3:01
13. Wings to Fly 2:39
14. This Ottawa Valley 4:27



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