



Recorded during Fall 2020, *Come Around* is the 8th solo album from acclaimed Canadian songwriter and performer Rob Lutes.

The follow-up to 2017's *Walk in the Dark*, which earned Folk and Roots Radio's "Album of the Year", a Canadian Folk Music Award for Contemporary Vocals, and multiple nominations, *Come Around* was co-produced by Lutes and longtime collaborator Rob MacDonald at MacDonald's intimate Gambling Mule Studio. It features 11 original songs, a gritty cover of the traditional acoustic blues classic *In My Time of Dyin'*, and gorgeous backing vocals from celebrated singer-songwriter Annabelle Chvostek. Replete with Lutes's literate, melodic songcraft, *Come Around* is another example of why Canadian critic Daniel Lemay calls Lutes "one of the most important songwriters of his generation."

Highlighting his unmistakable voice and acoustic fingerstyle guitar, the album sees Lutes melding influences of blues, Americana, folk and pop into a fresh electro-acoustic sound as he plots a pathway through the current state of human dislocation with wisdom and humour. On *Knives*, he views the extremes of love and loss against the realities of domesticity; in *Lightning*, painful flashes of recognition provide, in the end, a vision of hope; on *That Bird Has My Wings*, a song inspired by celebrated Buddhist author and death-row inmate Jarvis Jay Masters, Lutes finds hope of freedom in imagination and the natural world; and on *Work of Art*, the un-lived life is recast as a thing of beauty. Lutes also writes movingly of places in his life, conjuring the joys of youth and the comforts of memory in *Shediac Bridge*, *Fisherman's Rest* and *Amsterdam*.

Mixed by celebrated engineer Rob Heaney (Cirque de Soleil, Patrick Watson), the album features some of Canada's finest roots players, including the versatile MacDonald, veteran sideman Bob Stagg, and Juno-nominated bassist Solon McDade.

Recorded at six different studios due to Covid-19 restrictions, the album represents Lutes's vision for a sort of freedom and joy that can come from struggles, large and small. "We had to make adjustments in how we did this album. We could not be together," Lutes says. "But from literally across the country, we found a kind of energy through these songs. It was as if we were in the room. We can share so much through common effort and support. That's how this album was made, and it gives me hope."

Songs

1. *Knives* 3:25
2. *Lightning* 3:29
3. *That Bird Has My Wings* 3:16
4. *Come Around* 4:16
5. *Work of Art* 3:35
6. *In My Time of Dyin'* 3:35
7. *Fisherman's Rest* 4:54
8. *Shediac Bridge* 3:28
9. *Amsterdam* 3:30
10. *Waiting for You* 4:35
11. *By and By* 2:59
12. *Away* 2:01

All songs by Rob Lutes except *Knives* (by Rob Lutes and Monique Riedel), *Work of Art* (by Rob Lutes, John Lutes and Monique Riedel) and *In My Time of Dyin'* (Trad. arr. by Rob Lutes)

Musicians

Rob Lutes • acoustic guitar, vocals
Rob MacDonald • acoustic and electric guitars, dobro, mandolin
Solon McDade • bass
Mario Telaro • drums and percussion
Bob Stagg • piano, Wurlitzer, organ
Annabelle Chvostek • backing vocals
Kim Richardson • backing vocals

Press

"A gem. Among the best in a crowded roots field." - Toronto Star

"Great songs. I really like Rob's style." - Chris Smither

"Lutes is a fine roots/blues writer, one of those gems you find by chance as you're going through a town and he's going through a town and you just want a beer and he gives you the show of the year." - z Bob Mersereau, Top 100 Canadian Blog/CBC.ca

"A great songwriter, a man with a great way with words and also a fantastic guitar picker!" - Michael Jerome Browne

"Widely acknowledged as a gifted songwriter." - Lynn Saxberg, Ottawa Citizen

Booking

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