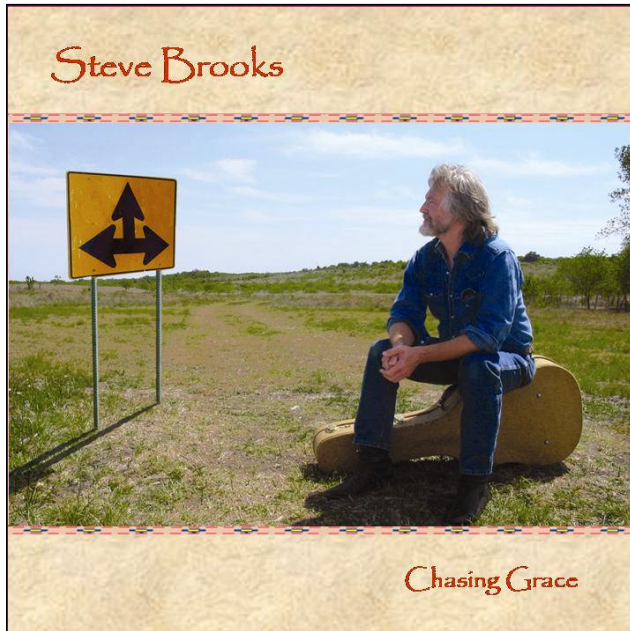


STEVE BROOKS

Chasing Grace

Frog Records FROG07 • National Release Date: April 2010



"Great unsung songwriter of Austin."
- Slaid Cleaves

"A wordsmith of the first order."
- Jimmy Lafave

"The same sense of commentary and observation that made the likes of Woody Guthrie a national hero."
- Ellis Paul

"Country flavor, a tinge of James Taylor and not afraid to kick up some dust."
- Austin Chronicle

"A collection of well-crafted gems with something for everyone."
- Joe Angel, KEOS-FM, College Station, TX

You may not know **Steve Brooks** by name, but you've been hearing his songs for years. They've been recorded by actor **Russell Crowe** (*One Good Year*) and Austin Americana artists like **Slaid Cleaves** (*One Good Year*, *Everette*) and **Danny Santos** (*This Memory of You*, *Hungry for Love*), as well as folksingers **Emily Kaitz**, **Kevin So**, **Marilyn Rucker**, **Dave Hooper** and **Jessica Shepherd**. He was heard on coast-to-coast radio on **Jim Hightower's** late, lamented talk show, where he wrote a song-a-week about events in the news.

Now, Brooks, is stepping out with his first studio album in fourteen years. Although Steve's satirical songs have been widely played on folk radio, producer **Chris Gage**, of Austin duo **Albert & Gage**, captures another side of Steve: poetic, romantic and spiritual. "I've been chasing grace, but grace ain't so easily found," sings Steve in his soaring version of *One Good Year*, co-written with Cleaves. On *Chasing Grace*, he's looking for it in unlikely places, from the mountains of North Carolina to Iowa fields and Texas honky-tonks, with help from sidemen like **Richard Bowden** (Maines Brothers Band), **Tom Pittman** (Austin Lounge Lizards), **Eddie Cantu** (Bruce Robison, Kelly Willis) and **Courtney Audain** (Timbuk 3).

Bookending the album's 12 songs are the mystical *Walking With the Elders* (inspired by a grove of old-growth trees in the Smokey Mountains) and the hymnlike *Precious*. In-between is a cycle of songs about love lost and rediscovered, and what he learns along the way. From the simple regret of *Will I Ever Love That Way Again?* and *Paradise*, his retelling of the Garden of Eden, he looks into his own depths in *Dark Side of the Heart* and begins to come out the other side in *The Other Shoe*. In *Bottomless Love*, he finds that he can indeed love that way again. He looks down the road, to the challenges making it last, in *Love is a House* and *Riding Out the Storm*, while affirming his gypsy spirit in *One More Shot of Whiskey*, with a tip of his cowboy hat to Willie Nelson.

Steve has written songs for two films and appeared in two more, including the 2004 release *Barbecue: A Texas Love Story*. A master of words as well as music, he appeared on TV's "I've Got a Secret" as six-time winner of Austin's **O.Henry Pun-Off World Championship**. He speaks at Unitarian churches around Texas and beyond, on topics like songwriting and spirituality. And pops up in locales like Albuquerque, where he wrote a song to serenade 11 fugitive Texas senators, and Crawford, Texas, where he opened for **Joan Baez** at Camp Casey.

Booking and Promotion: Steve Brooks • steve@stevebrooks.net • (512) 440-7668 • www.stevebrooks.net
Management: Charlie Stewart, Handshake Management • HandShakeMgt@aol.com • (512) 300-0780
Radio: Bill Wence Promotions • Nolensville, TN • billwencepro@earthlink.net • 800-584-5524

STEVE BROOKS

Chasing Grace

* 1. Walking With the Elders	4:01	7. The Other Shoe	4:01
* 2. Will I Ever Love That Way Again?	3:20	8. Bottomless Love	3:41
3. Iowa Wind	4:23	9. Riding Out the Storm	3:27
4. Paradise	4:03	10. Love is a House	3:01
* 5. One Good Year	4:22	11. One More Shot of Whiskey	3:10
* 6. The Dark Side of the Heart	4:19	12. Precious	3:25

* Recommended for airplay.

All lyrics FCC-friendly

All songs by Steve Brooks, (BMI), except *One Good Year* by Steve Brooks and Slaid Cleaves (Happy Valley Music, BMI) and *Riding Out the Storm* by Steve Brooks and David Glazer, (Walshire House Music, ASCAP)

BIOGRAPHY

They grow things a little bigger in Texas - including imaginations and lives. So it takes a lot of commas to describe Steve Brooks. Says *Songwriter's Circle* magazine: "The man is Steve Brooks and his mission most of the time: to be the poet, protester, songwriter, activist, political satirist, humorist that he is. No doubt Brooks is one of the most authentically colorful characters in the Kerrville gathering of colorful characters."

Steve started learning guitar from a Pete Seeger record while growing up in York, Pennsylvania. After two years of working on a California cattle ranch and exploring America by thumb, he got home in time to flee for his life from the 1979 nuclear accident at Three Mile Island. A year later, he sang with Seeger onstage at a rally to keep the plant closed, and was one of the "TMI Nine" put on trial for blockading its gates. His activism led him into journalism, spending four years as a reporter for the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*.

He's lived in Austin since 1991. His first two albums, *Purgatory Road* (1995) and *Bulletproof* (1998), show his songwriting debt to local heroes like Guy Clark and Townes Van Zandt, while showing off the gift of wordplay that made him six-time winner of the O.Henry Pun-Off World Championship. He stretched that gift further as the Chat'n'Chew Troubadour, writing a song-a-week for Jim Hightower's nationally-syndicated radio talk show and releasing *Sex, Lies and Videotape* (1999). Two more EPs of political satire, *Fever* (2003) and *BushWhacked* (2004), were played widely on folk radio. In his new release, *Chasing Grace* (2010), producer Chris Gage delves back into Steve's poetic side, with a finely-crafted collection of love songs, hard-luck stories and spiritual fables.

When he's not on the road, Steve lives in South Austin with his golden retriever, Molly, where he cooks up a mean beer-butt chicken and Louisiana gumbo. If there's a common thread to his hundreds of songs, it's about looking at the world from a slightly different angle - or from several angles at once. As Steve puts it - a bit more poetically - "A single new star rearranges a whole constellation." For more about Steve Brooks and his music, visit www.stevebrooks.net or www.myspace.com/stevebrooksaustin.

QUOTES

"Here in our town, we have an abundance of singer/songwriter talent, but rarely do so many faces and facets belong to just one person. Steve's voice can soothe or inspire...either your political fire or reaching to your spiritual self."

- Karen Webb, Webb House Concerts, Austin, TX

"When I listened to 'Chasing Grace' I heard familiar echoes - Jimmy Dale Gilmore, Jackson Browne, James Taylor, Jimmy Buffett among them - but above and beyond, I heard Steve Brooks. He's a fine writer and soulful singer."

- David Roth

ve is an extraordinary Austin songwriter. His songs can be hysterically funny or tearfully sad."

- Cyd Wright, Quillen's Coffeehouse, Houston, TX

"Steve is a great entertainer, an inventive songwriter, a real crowd pleaser and a heckuva guy."

- Roger Allen, KGSR-FM, Austin, TX

"Steve Brooks is well-equipped. When poignancy, humour and poetic licenses were handed out, he must have been on the receiving end for a considerable amount of time, because he possesses all these qualities in almost alarming dimensions."

- Rambles Magazine