

# *KANSAS CITY BASED KIRSTIE LYNN AND GALEN CLARK RELEASE NEW ALBUM “CINDERGARDEN (B SIDES)”*

*June 21, 2023 (Kansas City, MO) – Just in time for the summer solstice, Kirstie Lynn and Galen Clark release their latest album “Cingergarden (B Sides)” via (Lost River Sound Records) today. Produced by Galen, and written by Kirstie and Galen, the record was mastered by John Koneval, and builds on the superb vocals and instrumentation from their previous album “Cindergarden (A Sides).”*



Photo by  
Megan Karson

From Kirstie and Galen: “Cindergarden (B Sides) is an album like you’ve never heard us before. With A Sides offering a more introspective and soft approach to our experiences and song writing, B Sides is the louder and rowdier side of the coin. Galen recorded everything in my spare room, and mixed the tracks amidst the chaos of life, and we recruited an incredible team of almost entirely KC-based musicians to help bring these songs to life. We hope B Sides makes you sing along with the windows rolled down, dance around a midnight campfire, or laugh in the company of good friends all summer long.”

“Cindergarden (B Sides)” features two different sets of guest musicians, highlighting the different directions the duo have been exploring. Opening cut “Always Greener” serves as a logical bridge to their previous record with its lilting melody, lonesome pedal steel guitar courtesy of Devon Teran, and Kirstie’s soaring voice. However, lyrics like “the grass is always greener, especially after you’ve cut it down, and I cut you down, guilty scythe in hand” signal a deeper and darker introspective mood. Second song “Birdfeeder” presents gorgeous instrumental interplay between guest Adee Dancy’s succulent cello, Galen’s ever-present mandolin, and Kirstie’s delicate fingerpicking, serving as a hand-woven canvas for another round of Kirstie’s vocal gymnastics. “I Want A Cowboy” is a particularly slinky number, giving rough and rowdy listeners another taste of Kirstie’s delectable lyrics:



*“I’m not waiting for no doctor,  
no businessman or lawyer  
I want a cowboy, baby, bolo  
ties and denim glutes  
A pair of rugged, wranglin’  
arms, and a ‘stache  
I can hold onto...  
With a mullet like that  
how could I have fright?”*

*Yeehaw!*

*You can walk all over me,  
in them big ‘ol boots.”*



Photo by Strawberry Hive

The more muscular outings include “No Control” with Natalie Bates’ propulsive percussion, Zach Arias’ stinging electric guitar licks, and John O’Keefe’s solid-as-a-rock foundation of bass. Here we find Kirstie as a cosmic country queen, somewhere between Stevie Nicks and Ann Wilson of Heart, reminiscent of a female-led Led Zeppelin. Closing out the album is “Whinkin’ Driskey,” a real barnburner for your weekend (or any other) nights.

Kirstie and Galen's nostalgic and warm sound, blending elements of folk and progressive Americana had its beginnings when they met while attending Shenandoah Conservatory, with Lynn pursuing a degree in Opera and Voice Performance, and Clark a degree in Music Production and Recording Technologies. Years and other projects had passed when a serendipitous reunion happened in Kansas City back in 2020. With the flame lit to pursue their folk music endeavors again, sparks flew on a trip to Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve when the two spotted "cinder gardens," where vibrant wildflowers grow out of ancient ash and lava rock. After Kirstie remarked, "Cindergarden would be a good name for a song," Galen promptly responded, "Cindergarden would be a good name for an album." Galen continues and says, "During the pandemic, everyone held on to seemingly nothing, but then we saw life blossom, just as those delicate flowers found their places in the crevices and cracks in the seemingly unwelcoming basalt rocks." "Cindergarden (A Sides)" was recorded in December 2021, and released in the spring of 2022. A few unfinished songs fell through the cracks though, and after touring the album through the fall, the duo reconvened in winter of 2022 to create again, and planted the seeds for a spring release of B Sides. The nature-inspired poetry and lush stringed accompaniment offer an introspective lens into the familiar contradiction of the trials and triumphs of life.

*Esteemed Texas troubadour Stefan Prigmore had this to say: "Kirstie and Galen's 'Cindergarden' works are a perfect example of an artistic force fully engaged in its craft. These songs are rare creatures, possessing ethereal, yet extremely relatable emotions and themes. Kirstie's voice, and Galen's accompaniment makes a musical experience that's lofty in its musicality, yet approachable in its humanity."*



Photo by  
Strawberry Hive



*Photos by Strawberry Hive*

*Originally from the Fingerlakes region of Upstate New York, Kirstie Lynn's lyrics and virtuosic vocal lines bring to life stories of love, heartache, and the search for a greater meaning. She has extensive experience as a classically-trained vocalist with a passion for songwriting, always looking to marry poetry and melody. Lynn is also an avid and active naturalist working in outdoor education and conservation, through which many of her songs find their inspiration.*

*As your local outsider, Galen Clark introduces an alternative perspective and approach to music that contains multitudes. Migratory melodies, multi-instrumental fluency, and mysterious texture all outline the stylings of the newly transplanted Cuyahoga Valley songwriter, producer, and musician. Sharing songs spanning the stoic mountains of Idaho's lost river range to the ancient hum of the Shenandoah Valley, Galen draws upon energy strewn between varied time and place, a broader quest for belonging, and rejuvenation beyond the front door.*

***After attending the Folk Alliance Conference in February this year, Kirstie and Galen are poised to get back on the road again, armed with new connections and perspectives. A packed slate of KC shows in July leads to a tour back east to upstate New York and Pennsylvania, winding their way back home in late summer, with festivals on the horizon. Finishing up their first music video and with a couple of beautifully-filmed live performances, these two enterprising and energetic artists will have you swooning from the very first note.***

*- Patrick Sprehe, Center Cut Records*