

## NEW RELEASES

### Darryl Purpose NEXT TIME AROUND

Blue Rock Artists

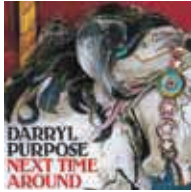
★★★★☆

Purpose ends a seven years silence with a stunning ten-song comeback

Among numerous life achievements, Darryl Purpose has excelled as a professional blackjack player, walked from coast to coast Stateside and then across Russia in support of disarmament, and spent eight years (1996-2004) recording and releasing a number of CDs and undertaking over one thousand singer-songwriter shows. NEXT TIME AROUND, his seventh release, sees the musician end a seven year long healing sabbatical spent in the rocky mountains of Colorado.

This ten-song disc includes one cover song, namely Girl From Golden, a previously unrecorded composition by his friend, the late Dave Carter on which Darryl is joined vocally by Dave's partner Tracy Grammer. Purpose's Colorado domicile is totally appropriate, since Carter's 'gypsy girl' paean is set in the mountain state. Three songs were penned by Purpose, the remainder being co-writes, four of which involved longtime collaborators. Of the latter, three titles were penned with author, songwriter and photographer Paul Zollo, the fourth with short story writer and author Robert Morgan Fisher. Recorded at Blue Rock Studio in Wimberley, Texas and produced by owner, musician and recording artist Billy Crockett, Purpose (vocals, acoustic guitar) is supported throughout NEXT TIME AROUND by Dony Wynn (drums), Glenn Fukunaga (bass) and Daran DeShazo (electric guitar), plus there's input from Billy Crockett (mandolin, acoustic guitar, keyboards) and Dirje Smith (cello) as well as vocal contributions from Ruth Moody (The Wailin' Jennys), Devon Sproule and her husband, Paul Curreri.

Close your eyes, listen intently to Darryl's voice, and you'll swear that James Taylor is singing. Album opener, Dreams Of Life, a Zollo co-write, paints portraits of people struggling to get by. The characters are linked by the thread: 'All of our days only dreams of life.' It's followed by the sole Fisher collaboration, The Stories That We Tell which approaches daily life from a totally different angle. A meditation on achieving a fulfilling existence, Race



The Wind is dedicated to the tenacity of Colorado-based long distance runner Melody Fairchild. Aged 23, peace activist Rachel Aliene Corrie was murdered in the Gaza Strip. That was ten years ago. Purpose's Song For Rachel Corrie was inspired by the YouTube video of ten year old Corrie wherein she contends (circa 1989) that given the mankind's will; world hunger could be eliminated by the year 2000. Ultimately, this paean contends that Earth's major issues cannot be resolved overnight. The Ghost Of Crazy Horse, according to Darryl, is a companion piece that recalls how the Lakota chief perished while in the custody of the US Cavalry.

In the mid-1980s, Scott Harrison, a resident of Nederland, Colorado purchased the frame of a derelict carousel, subsequently hand-carved dozens of carousel animals, and bearing the title Carousel Of Happiness opened this indoor attraction a couple of years ago. The album title song, which closes the disc, was inspired by Harrison's quarter of a century long restoration project. Photographs of the derelict and reconstructed carousel feature in the liner booklet. Arthur Wood

[www.darrylpurpose.com](http://www.darrylpurpose.com)

### Hat Check Girl ROAD TO RED POINT

Waterbug WBG 110

★★★★

Evocative snapshots from a lost America

ROAD TO RED

POINT is the third album from this pairing of seasoned veterans, Annie Gallup and Peter Gallway and almost immediately it stakes a claim not only to be their best effort so far, but to be one of the better releases of the past year. Spare and evocative with both playing an array of stringed instruments while Gallway adds keyboards and accordion, the end result is a sepia-toned montage that delves deep into a mythical America of dust strewn roads and bleak landscapes. Fittingly enough they say many of the songs were inspired by depression era photographs and it's true that the album evokes a lost era. With lap steel guitar, Dobro and banjo gently buttressing some of the songs, the overall sound and feel is somewhat akin to the work of Daniel Lanois, as Gallway soaks the songs in an ambient style with



his guitars and keyboards at times ethereal and haunting. Both sing and both share a fine world wearied sense in their delivery, although it is Gallup's voice, which dominates with her spoken delivery on Texas Burning shiveringly good. Paul Kerr

[www.hatcheckgirl.net](http://www.hatcheckgirl.net)

### David Broad NEVER CAN TELL

Self-Release

★★★

Singer-songwriter with album of blues-tinged folk music that combines original songs with well-worn standards

David Broad hails from West Yorkshire, but you wouldn't think so when the title track Never Can Tell from his debut album starts to play. Infused with some wonderful and effervescent fingerpicked acoustic guitar playing that hits you right between the eyes, you are transported immediately across the Atlantic. This album features eight original songs of David's, combined with three, what I would call folk standard covers; John Henry, Pretty Polly and The Wreck Of The Old '97. For me, David's own songs are the stronger. He has a fine voice and his guitar playing is perfectly suited to his material. Sounding like he has lived in a shack in Tennessee all his life and playing in a gin joint after a hard day in the cotton fields, David sure can rock an acoustic guitar.

Supported by Serious Sam Barrett on 12-string guitar, Michael Rossiter on mandolin, Jamie Lockhart with fiddle on the opening track, plus some fine lap steel guitar by Peter Carlill and exquisite backing vocals by Tessa Smith; this is a very well put together album. Whether it's on the riotous Congress Street, which will have you nodding your head in time, the more reflective Unmade Bed or We'll Settle Down Someday—where Tessa Smith's vocals play a great part, or the lively closer Too Late; this is a darn good album from a Yorkshire blues player. As I said, I feel the standards, while well-performed feel a little out of place with the other material; although I wouldn't let that take anything away from this fine debut album.

David can be sure that one of his idols Woody Guthrie would have been very pleased with what he has produced. John Jobling

[www.davidbroad.co.uk](http://www.davidbroad.co.uk)

