

# Rob Ickes

## Road Song

(Release date 7.21.09)

**ROAD SONG, ROB ICKES' FIFTH SOLO ALBUM**, is a boundary-breaking album with wondrous romps and intimate dobro-piano dialogues that reach into the emotional core of 10 great jazz standards. **JAZZ PIANIST MICHAEL ALVEY'S** intricate bass lines and percussive right-hand chordal punctuations have the energy of a full ensemble, while Ickes lays down melodies with precision before the duo launches into breathtaking improvisational rides. **ROBINELLA**, a perfectly empathetic singer, contributes a playful give-and-take with dobro and piano, partly inspired by the great Ella Fitzgerald-Louis Armstrong collaborations.

**THE 10-TIME WINNER OF THE DOBRO PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BLUEGRASS MUSIC ASSOCIATION**. Ickes isn't content with assumed boundaries of genre. Throughout his career, as a solo artist, a sought-after sideman or a founding member of the acclaimed ensembles **BLUE HIGHWAY** and **THREE RING CIRCLE**, Ickes' intuitive ability to tap into a song's emotional essence and offer something fresh has earned him accolades and respect well beyond the Dobro's domain in country and bluegrass music.

Ickes (rhymes w/ "bikes") has collaborated with a wide range of musicians, including Charlie Haden, Merle Haggard, Earl Scruggs, Tony Rice, David Grisman, Alison Krauss, Willie Nelson, David Lee Roth, Patty Loveless, and Mary Chapin Carpenter. The youngest dobro player on *The Great Dobro Sessions* (**1994 GRAMMY, BEST BLUEGRASS ALBUM**), he was also on the Alison Krauss & The Cox Family album, *I Know Who Holds Tomorrow* (**1994 GRAMMY, BEST SOUTHERN GOSPEL**).

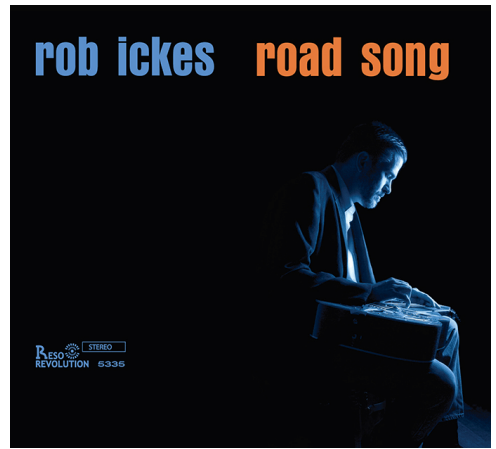
"Rob Ickes' new CD swings! It cooks! Ickes does for the dobro what Toots Thielemans did for the harmonica and Stephane Grappelli for the violin – he makes it a legitimate JAZZ instrument."

– **Mark Welch, Program Director, WKMS**

"Ickes' playing is unfailingly deep, expressive, and emotional. He elevates the state of the art in such a startlingly beautiful way that it's almost impossible to view the instrument the same way ever again." – **Matt Blackett, Guitar Player Magazine**

"I've been listening to Rob's new album, *Road Song*, and hitting the 'repeat' button – I don't care if it's the only thing I listen to for the next year!" – **Tony Rice**

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### Track Listing:

1. Song for My Father 6:02
2. Caravan 4:22
3. You Win Again 5:03 \*
4. Road Song 4:59
5. If I Had You 4:26 \*
6. I Can't Make You Love Me 6:44
7. West Coast Blues 4:53
8. The Nearness of You 4:30 \*
9. Take the "A" Train 4:29
10. Hymn to Freedom 4:35

\*Suggested Americana tracks, featuring Robinella on vocals

Suggested Jazz tracks: #1, Song for My Father; #8, The Nearness of You

### Selected 2009 Dates:

- Jul 8 Montreal Jazz Festival (w/Charlie Haden)
- Jul 27 WoodSongs Radio, Lexington, KY
- Jul 28 Live in Studio C, WPLN, Nashville, TN
- Jul 29 Tennessee Shines, The Bijou, Knoxville, TN (w/Michael Alvey & Robinella)
- Jul 31 Down Home, Johnson City, TN (w/Michael Alvey & Robinella)
- Aug Barking Legs, Chattanooga, TN w/ Michael Alvey & Robinella (day TBA)
- Aug 25 Red Sea Jazz Festival, Eilat, Israel (w/Michael Alvey)

for dates with Blue Highway, go to:  
www.bluehighwayband.com



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