
RODDY HART AND BAND & LEEROY STAGGER



Roddy Hart is a Scottish singer-songwriter with a big international future. Already revered by no less a figure than legendary US singer Kris Kristofferson, he is now being touted by Nashville-based Compass Records and joins an elite cast of singer-songwriters at the Leonard Cohen tribute festival in Edmonton, Canada next July.

Released last year by Vertical Records, Hart's debut album, *Bookmarks*, has received enthusiastic praise from critics on both sides of the Atlantic. Featuring guest performances from Kristofferson, Eddi Reader, and various Trashcan Sinatras, the album was hailed a classic by *Global Rhythm Magazine*. Prestigious UK music magazine *Uncut* likened Hart to a young Willie Nelson and *Americana-UK.com* recognised "a genuinely distinctive singer crafting genuinely literate, affecting music."

Such success has come relatively quickly. Back in 2004, Hart began compiling demos which he released himself as *Home Tapes*. He was subsequently invited to support John Prine, Roddy Frame, Ray Lamontagne and at his own personal request, Kris Kristofferson. An appearance at Austin, Texas music convention, *South by South West*, and a five-week American tour followed and when Hart released the essentially home-made *Bookmarks*, Nashville-based Compass Records picked it up for the US market and offered Hart a deal for its successor.

Bookmarks was also enthusiastically received in Canada, resulting in Hart's invitation to appear at the Leonard Cohen tribute festival, where he will be accompanied by Canadian singer k d lang's band.

Another Canadian connection is Leeroy Stagger, the singer-songwriter who joins Hart on this Scottish Arts Council *Tune Up* tour. The two musicians met when Stagger supported Hart at ABC, Glasgow, and got on so well that each decided to organise concerts in his own country at which the other would appear too. This resultant coming together is Roddy's part of the bargain. Canadian dates follow in early 2008, by which time Hart's new album will be released, marking another step for an artist who continues a long tradition of honest, intimate song-writing, yet has found his own voice in the process.