

For Immediate Release
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Portland Songwriter Carl Solomon Draws National Radio Airplay

Portland, Oregon-based singer-songwriter Carl Solomon has been garnering radio airplay across the country and beyond with his latest self-produced release, *Promised Land*. Twice-named one of “Rich’s Picks” on Rich Warren’s nationally syndicated *The Midnight Special* radio show that emanates from Chicago’s WFMT-FM, the CD features a dozen of Solomon’s original Americana-style folk-rock ballads.

Darkly acoustic and wholly American with lyrics that hold deft turns of phrase and faint echoes of Townes Van Zandt and John Hiatt, the songs on *Promised Land* are variously populated by carnival barkers, tattered cowgirls, lost losers, and reflective lovers and loners who dance to the music of life accompanied by banjo, fiddle, accordion and guitars.

“Building on his success with “Those Two Crows” from his 2012 release, *Black Top Beauty*, Carl has crafted another CD of 12 songs that reflect his insight into the human condition,” says Dianne Hunt, a DJ at Portland’s KBOO. “These melodies and chords are spare, but the feelings contained within them are deep and heartfelt.”

Solomon says that his songs are “really based on telling stories about the comings and goings of people’s lives – the crossroads, the detours and accidents of our life. Because they’re stories, people connect.” Although he cites such songwriters and storytellers as Van Zandt, John Prine, Leonard Cohen, Bruce Springsteen, Guy Clark and Woody Guthrie among his influences, Solomon draws from years of counseling and listening to the human experience in crafting what have been described as new Americana tales. “I’m really a listener, and I hear things,” he notes. “I walk around with a small pad and, I guess, I steal from the events that people share. My target is to be real and true. My music reaches, I think, hopefully, everybody. I’m not targeting adolescents or senior citizens.”

Solomon spent his early years in Brooklyn, New York with a beat poet’s name and loved stories that engaged his mind with mythology, history and philosophy. He later lived in Baltimore, Maryland and has called Portland home for more than 40 years.

After connecting with a friend in Austin, Texas who was teaching songwriting and guitar to returning U.S. military veterans as part of a national program, Solomon enlisted in the endeavor, organized a small band of Portland songwriters, and launched a local branch of *Soldier Song and Voices*. The 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization aims to heal the trauma of war through musical therapy. It hosts songwriting workshops and volunteers provide music lessons and instruments for veterans at no cost.

Solomon also can frequently be found entertaining travelers awaiting flights at Portland International Airport, where his music provides a brief pleasant distraction from the messages blaring over the intercom at the gates. “It’s a very rewarding experience,” he says of being part of the airport’s Entertainer Program.

Although Solomon primarily performs solo locally and expresses a preference for playing small venues and festivals, his worn and worldly vocals and skillful guitar work on *Promised Land* are complemented by the musical contributions of Radoslav Lorkovic, David Jacobs-Strain, Anna Tivel and Kelly Brightwell, among others.

More information about Solomon and his music may be found at www.carlsolomonmusic.com.

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