



Mark Ransom Releases Long Awaited New Album

by *TIMMY DURANTE*, for *Cascade A&E*

Local singer-songwriter Mark Ransom has finally release his long awaited solo album with a full cast of all-star local musicians to back him up. Set to hit stores early in December 2003, *Stride* is a smooth collection of flowing and unobtrusive songs about love and the good life. The instrumentation, sharp production by Linken Olsen, and eclectic musicianship help bring different textures to each of the ten new tracks.

Ransom busts with some nasty solos on *Stay on the Train*, which may surprise fans of his solo acoustic and Rhythm Beans work. *Stride* is a Tayloresque bubbler that eases through the singalong chorus with loose backing vocals that ad to the "everybody join in" vibe. In *Country Girl* Ransom's vivid storytelling paints hazy but clear pictures of adventures in the sunshine.

There is a bit of a vintage seventies folk pop vibe in the album, but the songwriting is fresh and the diversity of the musicians adds lots of flavor. The all-star list of backing musicians includes Kent Howes, Tom Kealy, and Peter Sussman on drums and

percussion. Tyler Lynch, Barrett Dash and Rich Hurdle on Bass. Eric Ransom, Ted Brainard, and Mark Ransom handle guitar duties. Colleen Cordiss and Brent Allan provide backing vocals. Jim Cajacob on horns and Steve Depatic on organ. Quite a mix of local talent if one may say so.

You can pick up *Stride* at your local CD store, or check out markransom.com for more info and performance dates.

