

Music Legend Rita Coolidge Returns to Her Musical Roots on *Safe in the Arms of Time*, Due May 4th on Blue Élan Records

Along with Coolidge, the luminous new album features the songwriting talents of Graham Nash, Chris Stapleton, Stan Lynch, and Keb' Mo'

LOS ANGELES (February 14, 2018) One of music's most enduring voices and composers, Rita Coolidge will release her dramatic and poignant new solo album, *Safe in the Arms of Time*, on May 4th on Blue Élan Records. The album marks the two-time Grammy winner's return to songwriting, and as she did in her acclaimed 2015 memoir, *Delta Lady*, she drew inspiration for her new material from her personal journey.

"I've written so many songs assuming a role like an actor, but this time I got to write from experience," says Coolidge, who co-wrote three of the album's 12 wondrous cuts. "This is the best record I've ever done. I'm extremely proud of it."

In many ways, *Safe in the Arms of Time* is both a reflection and a continuation of Coolidge's remarkable history, one that took flight during the heyday of the '70s L.A. music scene when she sang backup on Stephen Stills' "Love the One You're With" and Eric Clapton's "After Midnight." (And astute music fans are well aware of how she contributed the classic – and uncredited – piano coda to Derek & the Dominoes' "Layla.") "The idea was making an album that had the same appeal of my early records – to make a roots record about my own roots," Coolidge says.

And so it was only fitting that Coolidge and producer Ross Hogarth, along with an all-star lineup of top musicians – guitarist Dave Grissom, bassist Bob Glaub, keyboardist John "J.T." Thomas, and drummer Brian MacLeod – assembled at L.A.'s Sunset Sound, the famed recording studio where she recorded her first solo albums on A&M Records 30 years ago. "Going back to Sunset Sound was taking a journey into the past – there was a memory down every hallway," Coolidge says.

Along with nostalgia, there was a hopeful eye toward the future, beautifully rendered on "You Can Fall in Love," which Coolidge wrote with former Tom Petty drummer Stan Lynch and Joe Hutto. The track explores reconnecting with an old flame, and it embodies one of the album's paramount themes: It's never too late. "People need to have an awakening that you can fall in love at any age and it will feel right, like you're 15," Coolidge says. "I really wanted to have that message come across on the record."

Coolidge wrote two of the album's standout cuts – the sparkly blues number "Naked All Night" and the smooth-soul gem "Walking on Water" – with Grammy-winning blues star Keb' Mo' and singer-songwriter Jill Colucci in Nashville.

Trading vocals with Keb' Mo' on "Walking on Water" was a thrill for Coolidge, who enthuses, "I literally have every Keb' Mo' CD. I've been a fan for decades."

Safe in the Arms of Time also gave Coolidge the chance to reunite with one of her real-life past flames, one who has remained a cherished friend, Graham Nash. Nash and drumming legend Russ Kunkel had offered Coolidge their smoky blues rocker "Doing Fine Without You" two years before she began recording. "I said to them, 'I don't know when I'm doing a record. Can I put this on hold?' When she and Hogarth started the project, it would be one of the first songs they picked.

The "Delta Lady" (as she was named by her fellow Mad Dogs & Englishmen tour member Leon Russell) has captivated fans during her astonishing 50-year career, selling millions of copies of signature hits such as "We're All Alone," "The Way You Do the Things You Do," "All Time High", and "(Your Love Has Lifted Me) Higher and Higher." Her eight-year relationship with former husband Kris Kristofferson yielded three top-selling albums (including the No. 1 hit *Full Moon*) and multiple Grammy Awards.

Safe in the Arms of Time marks the first new music Coolidge has recorded since the tragic death in 2015 of her beloved sister, Priscilla, a recording artist and member of Walela, the Native American trio she and Coolidge founded with Priscilla's daughter, Laura Satterfield. The recording of the album also coincided with Coolidge's relocation from Southern California to a new life in Tallahassee, where in the 1960s, as an art major at Florida State University, she discovered her true calling as a musician – and never looked back.

With *Safe in the Arms of Time*, Coolidge's musical journey – from the hills of rural Tennessee to the recording studios of Los Angeles and concert stages around the world – comes full circle. She predicted such an odyssey with stunning prescience in her memoir, writing, "Sometimes the path is surrounded by rainbows, and sometimes it's buried in the mud. I'm still here and I still have a lot of gratitude for the whole process of being able to make music."

Safe in the Arms of Time will be released on multiple formats (including a three-sided white vinyl collector's edition with a special silkscreen on the fourth side) on May 4th on Blue Élan Records. In March, Coolidge will debut select songs from *Safe in the Arms of Time* at the SXSW Festival in Austin, Texas, and she'll celebrate the album with a very special record release performance at L.A.'s historic Troubadour nightclub on April 30. Other upcoming dates are:

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| MAR 10 | Montalvo Arts Center | Saratoga, CA |
| MAR 11 | Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse | Berkeley, CA |
| APR 12 | The Cutting Room | New York, NY |
| APR 13 | The Towne Crier Café | Beacon, NY |
| APR 15 | World Cafe Live | Philadelphia, PA |

APR 30 Troubadour

Los Angeles, CA

For more information, please visit:

<https://ritacoolidge.net/>

<https://blueelan.com/>

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