

patty larkin watch the sky



sky

Patty Larkin has been redefining the boundaries of folk-urban pop music for more than 20 years with her inventive guitar wizardry, vocals and uncompromising lyrics.

ACOUSTIC GUITAR hails "her soundscape experiments" while ROLLING STONE praises her "evocative vocals, and subtle sonic shading." She has been described as "riveting" (CHICAGO TRIBUNE), "hypnotic" (ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY) and "drop-dead brilliant" (PERFORMING SONGWRITER). Now she has fans and fellow artists poised at the ready for her most recent endeavor, her intimate, gritty portrait of an artist in full stride, **Watch The Sky** (Vanguard Records 2008).

Patty Larkin has always prided herself in her creative approach to music. With **Sky**, Larkin has created a one of a kind release that she wrote, produced, engineered and edited. Larkin wrote and recorded much of the material as it came to her, assembling tracks and sounds as she went. The result is a raw, intimate gorgeous sound that is all her own. Here Larkin has experimented with a kaleidoscope of sounds, from her "slapsteel" guitar (lap steel detuned, played with drumstick and hand) to the "baribow," an organic take on a string section, played on electric baritone guitar with a child's violin bow. Things take off with a hip hop tinged piece, sung in the voice of a ghost walking the house with a wailing electric blues guitar part, to intimate acoustic guitar with orchestral underpinnings and vocals in the style of Nick Drake. The concept of combining acoustic instruments with modern technology has always intrigued Larkin, and she accomplishes this feat gracefully on "Watch the Sky."

Larkin's treasured past co producers, Bette Warner and Ben Wittman, joined her at regular intervals to collaborate and give feedback, but much of the process was a solitary venture for her. "I've always been a writer who enjoyed the solitude of the creative process. Learning the technology to be able to record myself and edit it down was something I've been working towards for quite some time. Some of the songs were written in a stream of words as the tracks rolled by, most all of them were recorded immediately after having written them. I feel that I'm stretching myself as an artist on this one. Reinventing how I create. It was a thrilling, at times harrowing experience." Patty Larkin grew up in a music and arts oriented family in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Descended from a long line of Irish American singers and tale tellers, her mother is a painter, her sisters both musicians. She learned at a young age to appreciate the beauty and magic of the arts. She began classical piano studies at age 7, and became swept up in the sounds of pop and folk in the 60's, teaching herself the guitar and experimenting with songwriting. An English major, Larkin wrote songs throughout her high school and college career, starting out in coffeehouses in Oregon and San Francisco. Upon graduation, she moved to Boston and devoted herself to music, playing on the streets of Cambridge and studying jazz guitar at Berklee College of Music and with Boston Area jazz guitarists. "I wanted to learn as much as I could about the instrument, how to read for it, how to play anything. I realized the enormity of the task, and somehow gave myself permission to climb the mountain. I'm still learning."

Patty is a rare combination of talents. Over her 10 CD history, she has honed a reputation as a "musician's musician", working with some of the brightest talents in American music. Long a favorite with critics, Patty is that unique level of artistic sophistication - one that her audiences have come to appreciate and her new fans will love. Patty Larkin has achieved a personal best with "Watch the Sky." The ever evolving artist has continued to search for a new voice, a fresh palate. Watch the Sky. Watch Patty Larkin.



patty plays all

Vocals
Acoustic Guitar
Electric Guitar
Baritone Guitar
Lap Steel
National Steel
Bass
Banjo
Bazouki
Loops
Toy Organ
Door Chimes

patty on the recording process

The recording process was mostly solitary. The good thing was that I could hit Delete whenever I felt like it. The down side was that there was no one around to bounce ideas off of until after the fact. Some of the songs were written the way I've always written: guitar in hand, notebook and pen (Cover Me, Dear Heart). Others were written to tracks I had put down and looped or arranged, the melodies and lyrics written and sung as the music floated by. Beautiful and All Souls Day come to mind. This was new ground for me, exciting, terrifying territory to uncover as a writer. When I write and record I want to get to the place that Brenda Ueland talks about in "If You Want To Write." She says the creative state is similar to that of a child sitting on the floor playing with beads: fully engrossed, no time, fully present. That is the place I went to, until the left side of my brain kicked in and said, "Hit Record, now!" Loops were built off of lap steel percussion, drum machine patterns, baritone guitar licks. Sometimes the song called for a rhythmic underpinning, and other times there was no click, only the ebb and flow of the lyric to direct me. (Hollywood) I ran vocals, toy organ, a small Casio keyboard and a 1950's lap steel through an old Leslie cabinet which lent an erie, classic vibrato to all it touched. I have an old 60's baritone guitar made by Telsco, a Japanese company that was imitating Fender at the time. It's a spaceship like thing. I created my own version of a cello or viola part by bowing the harmonics with my daughter's violin bow. For me, hearing the scrape of the bow suggests the idea of a string part. It's as if the mind fills in what it expects to hear. All in all, the recording process was a coming together of old and new: funky collectable instruments, beautiful handmade acoustic guitars, and computer software that has changed the recording process for so many songwriters. It's a new world out there. Glad to be walking in it, watching the sky.

notable quotes

WILD PERFECTION- BOSTON GLOBE An uncommonly articulate guitarist, she has evolved into one of the finest self-accompanists anywhere in popular music.

TOP 10- NEW YORK TIMES A virtuoso guitar player and mood-shaper... She is also a superb slide guitarist whose mature work is comparable to the best of Bonnie Raitte and Lucinda Williams.

RIVETING- CHICAGO TRIBUNE Patty Larkin is one of the most gifted performers in music today. A remarkable guitarist, an imaginative and versatile vocalist, Larkin turns in a riveting performance.

STRUM-BEAT- GUITAR WORLD Larkin is genre-stretching string popping alterna-folk

TRIPLE-THREAT- BILLBOARD An absolutely stunning guitarist, Larkin matches her instrumental chops as a vocalist and songwriter, making her a true triple-threat artist.

DROP DEAD BRILLIANT- PERFORMING SONGWRITER Imagine a drop dead brilliant guitar player, a richly textural singer, a commanding, poetic songwriter, a hilarious and personable entertainer. Now imagine these all in one person. There you have Larkin.

films/television/covers

Evolution (Film/Dreamworks) "Regrooving The Dream"
Random Hearts (Film/Columbia Pictures) "Good Thing"
Sliding Doors (Film/Miramax) "I Told Him That My Dog
Wouldn't Run" and "Tenderness on the Block"
Men in Trees (Television) "Wolf At The Door"
"Homicide" (Television) "Open Arms"
"Good Thing" Cher
"I Told Him That My Dog Wouldn't Run" Holly Cole

appears on

Bruce Cockburn "Charity of Night"
Dar Williams "My Better Self"
Roseanne Cash "The Wheel"
John Gorka "The Company You Keep"

discography

WATCH THE SKY 2008 Vanguard Records
LA GUITARA 2005 Vanguard Records
RED =LUCK 2003 Vanguard Records
REGROOVING THE DREAM 2000 Vanguard Records
AGOGO/LIVE 1999 Vanguard Records
PERISHABLE FRUIT 1997 High Street/Windham Hill/BMG
STRANGERS WORLD 1995 High Street/Windham Hill/BMG
ANGELS RUNNING 1993 High Street/ Windham Hill/BMG
TANGO 1991 High Street/Windham Hill/BMG
LIVE IN THE SQUARE 1990 Philo/Rounder
I'M FINE 1988 Philo/Rounder
STEP INTO THE LIGHT 1987 Philo/Rounder

interviews

VH-1
NPR Regional & All Things Considered
ABC Today
CBS This Morning
CBS News Nightwatch
CNN Sonia Live
Much Music TV Canada
American Music Shop
World Cafe, Mountain Stage, E-Town

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www.sroartists.com

www.pattylarkin.com





news flash:

watch the sky the new record

Patty Larkin is an accomplished and innovative singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist with ten solo recordings to her credit.

She returns here with **Watch The Sky** (Vanguard Records). A follow-up to her critically received RED=LUCK (Beautiful- VANITY FAIR, Absolutely Stunning, BILLBOARD), REGROOVING THE DREAM (Top 10- BOSTON GLOBE, NY TIMES) and PERISHABLE FRUIT (Top 10- WALL STREET JOURNAL), Larkin's SKY is ambient, ambitious and it strikes a chord. Written over the course of one winter in a barn on Cape Cod, SKY was recorded and assembled as one long stream of consciousness piece. Her first project since producing her groundbreaking LA GUITARA, a compilation of multi-genre international women guitarists, this new intimate work finds Larkin digging deep as an instrumentalist, producer, songwriter and now engineer, who uses technology as a part of her artistic expression.

touring

A musical omnivore and lauded as an exceptional live performer, Larkin embarks on a national tour to support **Watch The Sky** in winter 2008 armed with her handmade Olson Guitar, a Fender Strat, octave mandolin, Baritone guitar and looping devices. On tour, she will create many of the sounds and textures of **Watch The Sky**, redrawing the arc of the recording on stage.

awards

Patty Larkin is the recipient of an **Honorary Doctorate of Music** degree from Berklee College of Music, recognized for her outstanding contributions to contemporary music, alongside synthesizer pioneer Dr. Robert Moog. Over the years, other recipients of this prestigious honor have been Duke Ellington, Sting, Natalie Cole, among others. Patty Larkin has won an unprecedented **11 Boston Music Awards** and is the recipient of the **Distinguished Alumnae Award** from Berklee College of Music and "**Patty Larkin Appreciation Day**", a proclamation by Boston's mayor Thomas Menino.



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WILD PERFECTION—Boston Globe

An uncommonly articulate guitarist, she has evolved into one of the finest self-accompanists anywhere in popular music.

TRIPLE-THREAT—Billboard

An absolutely stunning guitarist, Larkin matches her instrumental chops as a vocalist and songwriter, making her a true triple-threat artist.

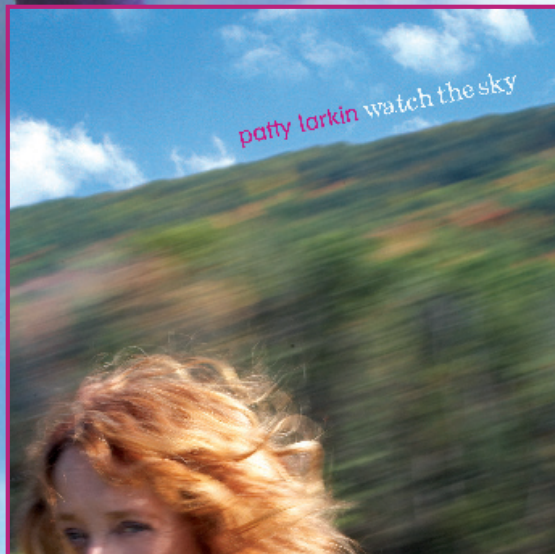
DROP-DEAD BRILLIANT—Performing Songwriter

Imagine a drop-dead brilliant guitar player, a richly textural singer, a commanding, poetic songwriter, and a hilarious and personable entertainer. Now imagine these all in one person. There you have Larkin.



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Patty Larkin has been redefining the boundaries of folk-urban pop music for more than 20 years with her inventive guitar wizardry, vocals and uncompromising lyrics. A "musician's musician" Acoustic Guitar hails, "her soundscape experiments" while Rolling Stone praises her "evocative vocals, and subtle sonic shading." She has been described as "riveting" (Chicago Tribune), "hypnotic" (Entertainment Weekly) and "drop-dead brilliant" (Performing Songwriter). Now she has fans and fellow artists poised at the ready for her most recent endeavor, her intimate, gritty portrait of an artist in full stride on her new album WATCH THE SKY. With SKY, Patty Larkin has created a one-of-a-kind release the she WROTE, PRODUCED, ENGINEERED and EDITED, plus ALL instruments and vocals on each song.



(79851)

TRACK LISTING

- Phone Message • Cover Me • Hallelujah • Beautiful
- Dear Heart • Hollywood • Walking In My Sleep
- All Souls Day • Bound Brook • Traveling Alone
- Here • Waterside

PRODUCED, PERFORMED, WRITTEN BY Patty Larkin

PATTY PLAYS ALL Vocals, Acoustic Guitar, Electric Guitar, Baritone Guitar, Lap Steel, National Steel, Bass, Banjo, Bazouki, Loops, Toy Organ, Door Chimes

ALSO AVAILABLE



Patty Larkin
Red = Luck (79727)



Patty Larkin
Regrooving The Dream (79552)



Patty Larkin
á gogo (79547)



BENCHMARK ARTISTS: Dar Williams, Ani DiFranco, Kaki King, Nanci Griffith
HOMETOWN MARKET: Boston

PRIORITY SOUNDSCAN MARKETS: New York, Boston, San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, Denver, Washington DC, Chicago, Seattle-Tacoma, Los Angeles, Portland OR, Philadelphia, Salt Lake City, Burlington-Plattsburg, Portland-Poland Spring, Louisville, Springfield MA, Austin, Providence-New Bedford, Tucson, Syracuse, Madison

MARKETING: Targeting 25-54 Male/Female. Strong street team and grassroots marketing support. Seeking third party promotions. Pursuing art house in-theatre audio placement and in-flight airline audio programming.

FILM/TV: Aggressively pursuing song placement in Commercials/TV/Film.

CONSUMER ADVERTISING: Acoustic Guitar, Mother Jones

RADIO: Servicing to Triple A, Non-Commercial, College and Satellite Radio.

PRESS: Print service to over 700 press outlets including Acoustic Guitar, Guitar World, Performing Songwriter, American Songwriter, Paste, Harp, Rolling Stone, Entertainment Weekly, People, Mother Jones, Utne Reader, all major dailies/weeklies, NPR, PRI and more.

INTERNET: Full media campaign targeting blogs, online press, radio, entertainment and lifestyle sites. Partner promotions may include acoustic sessions, listening parties and contests. Viral grassroots and lifestyle marketing initiatives include distribution of digital assets, exclusive downloads, email blasts and banner placement.

TOUR: Patty Larkin will tour heavily to support WATCH THE SKY. Dates to include: 1/19 Lake Worth, FL • 1/20 St. Petersburg, FL • 2/08 Charlottesville, VA • 2/09 Vienna, VA • 2/21 Loveland, CO • 2/22 Salt Lake City, UT • 2/23 Denver, CO • 2/24 Colorado Springs, CO • 2/29 Marblehead, MA • 3/01 Franklin, MA • 3/06 New York, NY • 3/7 Carrboro, NC • 3/8 Boston, MA • 3/14 Philadelphia, PA • 3/21 Chicago, IL • 3/22 Ann Arbor, MI • 3/26 Lawrence, KS • 3/28 Bloomington, IL • 4/11 Falmouth, MA • 4/12 Middletown, RI • 4/18 Brownfield, ME • 4/19 Londonderry, NH • Subject to change. Additional tour dates TBA.

P.O.P.: Poster available.

STREET DATE **JANUARY 22, 2008**

COMPACT DISC
PRICE CODE: FR



FILE UNDER ROCK



For Immediate Release

November 19, 2007

**PATTY LARKIN TRIUMPHANTLY RETURNS WITH *WATCH THE SKY*
JANUARY 22ND ON VANGUARD RECORDS**

**HER MOST AMBITIOUS ALBUM TO DATE,
LARKIN WROTE, PRODUCED, ENGINEERED & EDITED *SKY***

“An absolutely stunning guitarist, easily on a par with Bonnie Raitt, Larkin matches her instrumental chops as a vocalist and songwriter, making her a true triple-threat artist.” – ***Billboard***

“Patty Larkin transmits eccentric magic with taut, amused gems delivered in a rich alto. An uncommonly articulate guitarist, she has evolved into one of the finest self-accompanists anywhere in popular music.” – ***Boston Globe***

Musical troubadour Patty Larkin has been redefining folk-pop music for more than 20 years with her inventive guitar wizardry and uncompromising lyrics. Larkin triumphantly returns with *Watch The Sky* January 22, 2008 on Vanguard Records. Her most ambitious album to date, Larkin wrote, produced, engineered and edited it all herself. The result is an album of an artist in full stride, pushing the boundaries of what we have come to know as “folk” music.

Larkin has created a one of a kind release with *Watch the Sky*. Her passion of combining acoustic instruments with modern technology comes to fruition with her playing every instrument on the 12 tracks of *Sky*. Larkin experimented with a kaleidoscope of sounds during the process, from her “slapsteel” guitar (lap steel detuned, played with drumstick and hand) to the “baribow” - an organic take on a string section (played on electric baritone guitar with a child’s violin bow). She then cleverly incorporates these sounds with the traditional acoustic and electric guitars, banjo, bazouki, loops, toy organ and others. *Sky* takes off with a hip-hop tinged piece (“Phone Message”), sung in the voice of a ghost walking through the house accompanied by wailing electric blues guitar, then seamlessly transitions into a more intimate acoustic track with orchestral underpinnings rounded out by vocals inspired by Nick Drake (“Cover Me”).

Though Larkin's treasured past co-producers, Bette Warner and Ben Wittman, joined her at regular intervals to collaborate and give feedback, much of the process remained a solitary venture: “I’ve always been a writer who enjoyed the solitude of the creative process. Learning the technology to be able to record myself and edit it down was something I’ve been working towards for quite some time. Some of the songs were written in a stream of words as the tracks rolled by, most all of them were recorded immediately after having written them. I feel that I’m stretching myself as an artist on this one. Reinventing how I create. It was a thrilling, at times harrowing experience.”

Larkin has achieved unparalleled critical success and has won an unprecedented 11 Boston Music Awards. She is counted among a distinguished group including Duke Ellington, Sting, and Natalie Cole as a recipient of an Honorary Doctorate of Music degree from Berklee College of Music. Boston mayor Thomas Menino even proclaimed a “Patty Larkin Appreciation Day.” A national tour to support *Watch The Sky* will be announced in the coming months.

www.pattylarkin.com

For more information, a review CD, photos, and interview requests, please contact:
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