

FIRST “BEST OF” COLLECTION FROM ACOUSTIC HERO DAVID WILCOX FEATURES MAJOR LABEL TRACKS AND LIVE RECORDINGS

Singer-songwriter-guitarist David Wilcox is a near-deity in the acoustic music world. Yet he is also, says The New York Times, “a star still waiting to be discovered by a much larger audience.” So **The Very Best Of David Wilcox** (A&M/UME), released October 23, 2001, his first compilation, is that rare retrospective that is as much introduction as rediscovery.

Featuring 20 digitally remastered selections, **The Very Best Of David Wilcox** spans his career from his 1989 major label debut through his third A&M album in 1994. Also included are two live rarities previously issued only on A&M promotional releases.

The leading male voice in the early-‘90s singer-songwriter movement triggered by Suzanne Vega and Tracy Chapman, Wilcox blended perceptive, personal lyrics, a comforting baritone and his guitar’s unusual open tuning. Moving from Ohio to Asheville, North Carolina, in 1981, he built a local following and in 1987 released his indie debut, **The Nightshift Watchman**. Public radio stations nationwide rallied around the title track and soon an A&M talent scout spotted him at the Bluebird Café’s legendary open-mike night in Nashville. Wilcox was then signed to A&M’s roots-oriented Americana imprint, along with Tish Hinojosa and Zachary Richard.

His Americana/A&M debut, **How Did You Find Me Here**, produced by Pat McCarthy (U2, R.E.M.), included “Language Of The Heart,” “Saturday They’ll All Be Back Again,” “Eye Of The Hurricane,” “Leave It Like It Is,” “Rusty Old American Dream,” “How Did You Find Me Here” and “The Kid.” In concert, Wilcox won fans wherever he played and **The Very Best Of David Wilcox** includes his live version of “Daddy’s Money” (originally on **The Nightshift Watchman**) from the 1990 promo EP **Eye Of The Hurricane**, as well as the hilarious “Johnny’s Camaro,” from 1991’s promo EP **(Mostly) Live Authorized Bootleg**.

For his second album, 1991’s **Home Again**, Wilcox teamed with producer Ben Wisch (Marc Cohn), with contributions from Mary Chapin Carpenter, John Leventhal, Marc Egan and Randy Brecker. Tracks such as “Farther To Fall,” “Top Of The Roller Coaster,” “Last Chance Waltz,” “Covert War,” “Chet Baker’s Unsung Swan Song” (covered by k.d. lang as “My Old Addiction”) and “Advertising Man” further elevated his stature. **Big Horizon**, produced by

Richard Gottehrer and Jeffrey Lesser, arrived in 1994 with “New World,” “Farthest Shore,” “Break In The Cup,” “Strong Chemistry” and “That’s What The Lonely Is For.” However the version of “That’s What The Lonely Is For” on this compilation is a rare Ben Wisch produced version, not the one from Big Horizon though several tracks from the Ben Wisch sessions did make the final version of Big Horizon.

Since then, Wilcox has continued to record critically acclaimed indie albums and win adherents. An artist Rolling Stone has called “unjustly neglected” now receives at least some of his due with **The Very Best Of David Wilcox**.

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