



KATE CAMPBELL

DAMN SURE BLUE

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Singer-songwriter Kate Campbell turned to the **Man in Black** for inspiration on her latest Large River Music release *Damn Sure Blue*. In fact, two of the songs from this soulful collection of tunes stem directly from **Johnny Cash's** prolific catalog—the folk classic, “**The Ballad of Ira Hayes**” and his self-penned “**Forty Shades of Green.**” In addition to giving a nod to Cash, Kate chose his ode to the Emerald Isle in commemoration of her annual treks to Ireland where she hosts a music and heritage tour every summer for a group of die-hard fans. And by enlisting award-winning Americana guitar whiz **Will Kimbrough** as producer, this album plays like a Sunday afternoon drive down Highway 61 with country, folk, and blues blowing in the breeze.

Damn Sure Blue's opening line, “I’m not bitter, I’m just mad,” taps into the tide of discontent that many feel about the current state of American politics. Even a casual glance at daily headlines is enough to resonate with Kate’s reflective thoughts in “**Change Should’ve Come By Now**” and “**Long Slow Train.**” But she offers some hopeful words for this social malaise in her contemplative tune inspired by an **Emily Dickinson** poem, “**This, and My Heart Beside.**”

“**When You Come Back Home**” speaks to love’s devotion amid the weariness of life’s journey and serves as a tender centerpiece for the record. “**Sally Maxcy**” tells a heart-rending tale of loss from an eighteenth-century letter shared with Kate by her friend Joanne Maxcy Martin. Campbell pairs **The Louvin Brothers’ “Great Atomic Power”** with **Eric Kaz’s “Christ, It’s Mighty Cold Outside”** which are both decades-old tunes but seem eerily relevant in today’s brink-of-war landscape. The album fittingly concludes with “**Peace, Precious Peace**” that Kate’s friend and banjo player Laura Boosinger discovered on an old LP by the late Grand Ole Opry banjoist **Stringbean**. Kate recorded the basic track of the song through her iPhone at Laura’s house with Emma McDowell backing on a haunting fiddle.

Produced and recorded by **Will Kimbrough** at **Kimbrough Super Service** with additional recording by **Robert Lucas** at Barefoot Jerry’s **Cinderella Sound Studio** in Nashville, *Damn Sure Blue* breathes with Americana soul and features a cast of stellar musicians including **Will Kimbrough** (guitars, bass, mandolin, banjo, mandola, keyboards, and harmony vocals), **Kevin Gordon** (guitars and harmony vocals), **Dave Jacques** (upright bass), **Bryan Owings** (drums and percussion), **Phil Madeira** (accordion), **Chris Carmichael** (violin, viola, and cello), **Kate Campbell** (piano and acoustic guitar), and album artwork by outsider artist **Miz Thang**. Kate keenly notes that Cinderella is Nashville’s oldest surviving independent studio—opened in 1961 the year she was born—and nearby the house where she lived as a teenager and listened to the country-rock sounds of **Barefoot Jerry** and **Johnny Cash**.

DAMN SURE BLUE

1. Damn Sure Blue
2. Change Should’ve Come By Now
3. Long Slow Train
4. This, and My Heart Beside
5. The Ballad of Ira Hayes
6. When You Come Back Home
7. Sally Maxcy
8. The Great Atomic Power
9. Christ, It’s Mighty Cold Outside
10. Forty Shades of Green
11. Peace, Precious Peace

Produced by Will Kimbrough