

It's hard to have faith
in the plans that we make;
in the hearts we hold,
and the risks we take...



EPK



BIOGRAPHIES

Gregory Hoskins

His career has spanned 22 years, eight albums, recording contracts in Canada, the U.S., Germany, and Asia. He first appeared on the radar with his band The Stickpeople on the legendary True North Records label. Hoskins has opened for *Sarah McLachlan*, *The Indigo Girls*, *The Neville Brothers*, *Bruce Cockburn*, *Rickie Lee Jones*, *Hawksley Workman* and folk-legend *Odetta* among many others. In addition to appearances with *The Art of Time Ensemble*, he has worked with First Nations artists and arts organizations, as well as with media artist Cheryl L'Hirondelle in her ongoing creation project with women in prison, sharing what he knows about writing songs drawn from life.

Gary Craig

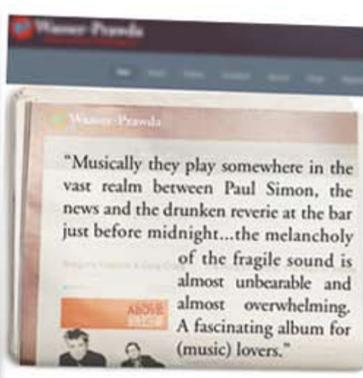
His long, long list of recording and performance credits include *Bruce Cockburn*, *Anne Murray*, *Jann Arden*, *Colin Linden*, *Kathleen Edwards*, *Tom Cochrane*, and *Blackie and The Rodeo Kings*. Contemporary credits include *Jenn Grant*, *Justin Rutledge*, *Suzie Vinnick*, *Ariana Gillis*, *Dala*, and *Paul Reddick* to name a few. Gary Craig and Gregory Hoskins have worked together live and in the studio since 1996.



THE MAP OF ABOVE, THE MAP OF BELOW

A SUMMARY

Produced by Gregory Hoskins and Gary Craig, the newest recording features nine new songs along with two "redux" renditions of previously recorded material. A drums/guitar record, Hoskins' powerful and articulate voice sings his non-fiction lyrics over textured roots grooves, all delivered by the pair from below the waist. *Map* features appearances from Hawksley Workman, Colin Linden and The Beggar's Virtual Choir; a 30-voice choir constructed from fans singing into their phones and uploading their files. Having written many of these songs while touring, the audiences often became an integral part of the song's structure, singing soft and mild like only a group of strangers can. Inviting people to participate via the internet seemed an inspired and original way to recreate the effect. Recommended if you like Leonard Cohen, Paul Simon, Nick Cave, Daniel Lanois, Jeff Buckley.



WHAT'S BEEN SAID ABOUT THE DISC: Press and Critical Reaction

Brad Wheeler, *The Globe and Mail*, *National Edition* (Canada)

"On their marvelous new album *The Map of Above, The Map of Below*, the Canadian duo or singer-songwriter Gregory Hoskins and timekeeping percussionist Gary Craig invited celebrated guests Colin Linden and Hawksley Workman to participate. As consummate professionals they did not phone in their parts. But the Beggars Virtual Choir absolutely did: The 30-voice chorale is composed of fans who sang their parts into handheld communication devices and emailed their efforts forth. The crowd-sourced choir is just one of the album's charms. Lyrics are real and bitter-sweet, arrangements are nimble, and the overall effect evokes a rum-based half dream involving Paul Simon, Joe Henry and truth."

Duane Verh, *Roots Music Report* (US)

"Singer/guitarist Gregory Hoskins takes on phrase turning and the crafting of hooks with a seeming nonchalance that may cause the naïve to think songwriting as good this a cinch. He vocally traverses the varied, roots-to-smart-sounding-pop melodic character of this very fresh sounding set with equally apparent ease and, alongside percussionist partner Gary Craig, conjures a most atmospheric and eclectic instrumental minimalism. Standouts here include *Providence Line*, *Sweet Redemption* and *It's Always Something* ***** Five Stars."

Fervour-Coulee, (Canada)

"Boy, does it work! Elemental components of traditional blues and troubadour— yes, I've decided that should be a word— are forged together creating a sweet and seathing affirmation of the human spirit. Hoskins' straight-ahead singing is at the fore binding these songs into thematic consistency— love (obsession, rejection, longing) hurts— but it is Craig's drumming that serves as the sonic core. Relatively unheralded, *The Map of Above, The Map of Below* is an organic album: beautiful, natural, and genuine. As great art often does, it reveals itself as a creation of substance over time, through multiple listenings. With each play through, the songs increase in stature, and Hoskins' layered vocal intensity becomes that much more impressive. Explore outside your comfort zone, and take a chance."

Wasser-Prawda, (Germany)

"Folk rock with bluesy overtones, everyday stories without pink glasses, a sometimes spartan sound only from guitar and drums, but then again full instrumentation and a complete background choir. Musically they play somewhere in the vast realm between Paul Simon, the news, and a drunken reverie at the bar just before midnight...the melancholy of the fragile sound is almost unbearable and almost overwhelming."

Soundguardian.com (Croatia)

"...If I had some doubts about this duo, the first song from this album, *The Map of Above, The Map of Below*, broke them all to pieces! Somewhere around halfway through the album and such songs as *Mama's Boy*, I just give in and accept the duo and their music...inspired and 100% original!" Soundguardian.com (Croatia)

The Alternative Root, (US)

"#4 of Top Ten: Canadian singer/songwriter Gregory Hoskins teams up with drummer Gary Craig for *The Map of Above, The Map of Below*. Singer Gregory Hoskins has a pop purity to his voice that gets balanced with scratchy electric guitar chords, soulful harmonies, and an ever-present percussion as true as a heartbeat."

Rust Magazine, (US)

"So often the greatest albums are launched in relative obscurity without the word getting out, and in the case of *The Map of ABOVE, The Map of BELOW* this would truly be a terrible thing. That's because this is an album of incredible depth, complexity and sincerity. *The Map of ABOVE, The Map of BELOW* is a master-crafted vintage wine made of years and tears. It is a very special album from very special musicians. Gregory Hoskins deserves credit as one of the most subtle, intricate and complex writers of our age. His ideas are like jewels floating in space, catching the light in a million different ways. This is music of timeless excellence. We rate *The Map of ABOVE, The Map of BELOW* as Essential!"

Jonathan Goldsmith, *Internationally Awarded Composer, Producer, Arranger*

"...unapologetically unadorned and direct, consistently compelling—articulate conversations coloured by a comfortable intimacy and a high level of intuition and musicality."

Andrew Burashko, *Artistic Director, The Art of Time Ensemble, (Canada)*

"...raw in the best sense of the word—uncluttered and full of emotion."

gonzoonline.com (Canada)

"If I was still writing "Best Of The Year" lists, *Map* would place at, or very near, the top of the heap in a year that's been filled with good music."

Nick Krewen, *Toronto Star and Grammy.com contributor (Canada/US)*

"...expertly points out the grey areas on T.M.o.A, T.M.o.B, tinged with hope and melancholy, applying his unusual gift of insight...another "can't miss effort" for fans of sublime observant song-writing."

Bob Mersereau, *Canada's Top 100*

"Sweet-voiced yet Hoskins teams up with go-to drummer Craig for this sublime disc, full of radiant, laid-back numbers. Each highlights Hoskins' writing and singing, with simple but rich backing. Craig sets the groove, Hoskins drops in evocative guitar lines with rich harmonies, and then we get carried along in the words and voice...Two big Canadian talents at the top of their games here."

Bernie Finkelstein, *Founder, True North Records (Canada)*

"...evocative and provocative. Give this record a listen. You'll be glad you did."

MEDIA



Stream Audio. Link will take you to Bandcamp.



Hi Lo



Hi Lo



Hi Lo

Click on appropriate link to download. Lo Res: 72 (1029x683) . Hi Res: 300 (4288x2848)

NOTABLE FESTIVALS

Luminato; Hillside Festival; The Canadian Guitar Festival; Shelter Valley Music Festival; Winnipeg Folk Festival

DISCOGRAPHY

- Moon Come Up (1991) *Gregory Hoskins & The Stickpeople*
- Raids On The Unspeakable (1993) *Gregory Hoskins & The Stickpeople*
- Surgery (1999) *Gregory Hoskins & The Stickpeople*
- The King of Good Intentions (2001) *Gregory Hoskins*
- The Beggar Heart (2007) *Gregory Hoskins*
- Alone in the Mayor's House...Almost (2008) *Gregory Hoskins*
- Pleasure & Relief: A Live Concert Recording (2008) *Gregory Hoskins*
- The Map of Above, The Map of Below (2013) *Gregory Hoskins & Gary Craig*

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