**Testimonials from artists for “One Way or Another”**

**I’m Gonna Lose Again**

(single released August 9th, 2022)

The songs in this collection are so beautiful, they create and conjure up the things flowers or trees might dream. They are connected and dance with each other. Coming out of the sky or swimming in a sea of sound. A revolutionary song concept also moves through the little stories that relate to all human beings. The lyrics don't repeat. They grow and reveal an inner world that has room for everyone. In the song *I'm Gonna Lose Again,* we hear phrases like, “the sky it is hot, and it's raining.” This music is a big winner for me from the first to the last song. An anthem to bring back our lost humanity. A map that guides us to the house of the sages.

William Parker – *Composer, Bassist*

**I’ve Got That Feeling**

(single released August 30, 2022)

It would be an understatement to say that I think Robin Holcomb is one of the finest songwriters of her time. Although I am hardly without bias, I first admired Robin’s music as a composer of stunning instrumental miniatures, and in no way connected to my love of great American songwriters. And with all my admiration for Moss Hart or Hoagy Carmichael, it was the semantic shift in lyrics that defined my generation in the 60s and 70 - so clearly exemplified by Bob Dylan but so many others as well, and not just Lennon or Joni Mitchell or Leonard Cohen - but also the brilliance Sly Stone. Captain Beefheart, Prince and a generation later Elliott Smith. Lyrics are a deal breaker for me, and like Dylan, Robin’s lyrics mean something the same, and new, all at once - even after hundreds of listens. Over 30 years later, I still hear songs from her first record and find myself thinking, “Ah, I get it now.” Only to get it all over again the next time.

So it’s really something to hear Robin cover a tune, and especially a tune like the single released yesterday. When Robin covers a Randy Newman song, or a Stephen Foster song, it may not be such a stretch, but what she creates with this song, “I’ve Got That Feeling”, by Doc Pomus, in nothing short of remarkable. Doc Pomus was a genius, but he was a Brill Building writer of radio friendly pop hits, meant for a teen audience with sentimental notions of love, loneliness, and sometimes fairy tale endings. What Charles Ives did for 19th century marches and village square hymns, Robin does for the teenage love song. It’s as if the song is turned inside out, upside down and turned on its head. The total change of harmony and rhythm reignites the lyric, she could have almost written it herself.

The late Hal Wilner, his own kind of genius, deserves so much credit for trusting Robin on his many projects in homage to different artists. At Hal’s invitation, she was often the least famous person on stage, in the company of Laurie Anderson and Lou Reed and Bono and Elvis Costello and Martha Wainwright and many, many more. But as Hal said one morning, after a very long night, on the bus back to the airport in Dublin, “here comes Robin, the only one whose music always comes fully baked to these half-baked affairs”. Yes, Hal too had a way with words! We miss him.

Wayne Horvitz – *Composer and Producer*

**Hard Times Come Again No More (Stephen Foster)**

(album track)

I will never forget the first time I heard Robin perform this arrangement of *Hard Times* at the Chapel Performance Space in Seattle. Her radical treatment of the Stephen Foster classic haunted me for weeks and embodies so much of what I love about Robin’s music.

The harmonic re-imagination at work in this arrangement captures such a beautiful and complex journey of emotions, in a way only Robin can weave. In the course of a few bars; hope, sorrow, assuredness, mystery, satisfaction, and disillusionment. Fragments of familiar and nostalgic musical thread are twisted and recast into something so much more colorful and poignant.

Of the hundreds of covers of *Hard Times* that exist, from Bob Dylan to Dolly Parton, none more accurately portrays the complexity and absurdity of our current times than this rendition by Robin Holcomb.

Andy Clausen – *The Westerlies*

**Old Dog Tray (Stephen Foster)**

(album track)

This Stephen Foster song Old Dog Tray, What a sad, sad song.
﻿This beautiful music Robin Holcomb has made. Intimate. Sacred. Scared. Brave. Naked. Magic. Hope. Music. I’m really struggling now to find words…That’s nothing new for me, but in this case, I’m finding it even more difficult. My hope is that whatever I say here will encourage folks to LISTEN to what Robin is doing. Really LISTEN. I’ve never heard anything like it.
There’s no way for me to describe it …or…I don’t want to even try to talk about it.
I don’t want to break the spell. I’d just like to thank Robin for sharing this extraordinary gift. She’s always taken the road less traveled… the crooked path…or…she’s made her OWN path. Uncharted territory. Courageous. She brings back treasures. Revelations.
Where do these harmonies come from?
The past? The present? The future?
Have I heard this before? Not like this.
Everyone. Please LISTEN. Listen closely.
We need this.

Bill Frisell – *Guitarist/Composer*

**Copper Bottom**

*I lost my voice around the corner*

the piano hovers

behind songs

made of pond bugs

wiring along the water

scat but not exact-

ly ly ly ly ly

I love the word *drifter*

and a neighbor at the window

Frances McCue (poet, founder - Richard Hugo House, founder – Pulley Press)