

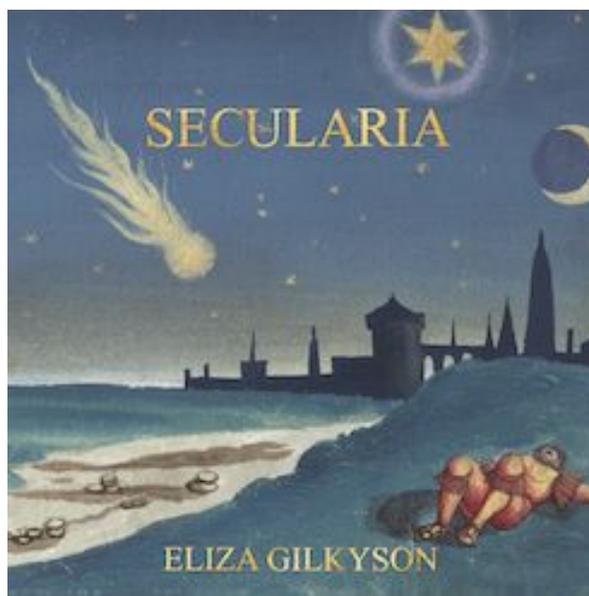
# RED HOUSE RECORDS

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## Eliza Gilkyson *SECULARIA*

*The two-time GRAMMY nominee returns with a new studio album  
On July 13 via Red House Records*



**AUSTIN, TX:** Renowned folksinger **Eliza Gilkyson** will release her 20th album, *SECULARIA*, on July 13 via Red House Records. Gilkyson’s music, in the classic folk music tradition, has always offered a vivid reflection of the times we live in with each song a window into a world of struggle and beauty in a culture she feels is “caught somewhere between collapse and reinvention.” The follow-up to her GRAMMY-nominated 2014 release, *The Nocturne Diaries*, *SECULARIA* is a collection of spiritually charged songs that do not fit within the parameters of traditional religious beliefs, challenging us to embrace a more inclusive perspective, to respect all life and to be accountable for our actions in these divisive times.

The album features a stunning performance with the internationally acclaimed **Tosca String Quartet**, (David Byrne, Bob Schneider), vocal cameos by **Shawn Colvin** and gospel singer **Sam Butler**, and a duet with her friend, the late **Jimmy LaFave**, as well as two songs adapted from poetry written by her grandmother, **Phoebe Hunter Gilkyson**, co-written with Eliza’s father, folksinger **Terry Gilkyson**. Recorded with what she calls a “spare urban folk approach,” the album features songs of grief, gratitude and wonder. As always, she’s assembled a group of some of Austin’s finest players to back her in the studio: **Chris Maresh** (Eric Johnson), **Warren Hood**, **Kym Warner** (The Green Cards), **Andre Moran**, **Mike Hardwick** (Jon Dee Graham, Charlie Sexton), **Betty Soo** and more.

The concept that evolved into *SECULARIA* has been percolating for years. Gilkyson is a daughter of the feminist movement and the project is equally inspired by the writings of the movement’s early pioneers and

today's #metoo movement. Feminist pioneer Mary Daly wrote in 1973, "If God is male, then male is God. The divine patriarch castrates women as long as he is allowed to live on in the human imagination." Like many women living in 21st century America, Gilkyson is questioning the patriarchy that has for so many centuries fundamentally shaped society.

"How much of my life has been built around the gender roles assumed in the God-as-Man theology?" Gilkyson writes. "How did that primal patriarchal assumption play out in my search for self-awareness, love, and acceptance in my personal life and ultimately in my music? How has it played out in the degradation of the natural world, the ever-present wars, violence against women, human suffering, the potential end of everything? These songs were directly inspired by a new way of understanding myself as a woman in the context of a culture going through a massive overhaul."

"**Solitary Singer**," the opening track, features lyrics by Phoebe Gilkyson and music by Eliza's father, Terry Gilkyson. The song became the title of a weekly folk-music themed radio show he hosted in the late 40's for the Armed Forces Radio Network. "The song bears witness to the profound harmony of the natural world, the antithesis of music tied to an industry, and the foundation upon which I was raised," Gilkyson says.

The second track, "**Lifelines**," celebrates the coming together of like-minded people after the last US presidential election. "I became acutely aware of a network of individuals all over the world who were mourning, processing and ultimately gearing up to fight back with all their hearts and souls, like lifelines of light connecting to me and to each other, comforting then and even more so today," Gilkyson says.

Other songs explore the overarching theme of a "new spirituality" that is evolving outside of traditional religious structures, including Eliza's moving current take on the traditional gospel tune "**Down By the Riverside**" sung with her longtime friend, the late Austin artist Jimmy LaFave, that was recorded just a few months before his passing, as well as a duet with Shawn Colvin on the song, "**Conservation**," with lyrics and music adapted by Eliza from another of her grandmother's poems.

"The fall from grace and redemption of the soul in these songs are less about a deity or afterlife, or a heaven and hell than they are about the very human story of losing and finding oneself within the span of a lifetime, which is all I know for certain that I've got. Woody Guthrie said, 'My religion is so big no matter what you do you're in it and no matter what you do you can't get out of it...' Gilkyson says. "He also said, 'Earth is God's everything.' He conveyed all that depth in just 29 little words."

Eliza Gilkyson is a two-time GRAMMY-nominated (2006/2015) singer-songwriter and activist who is one of the most respected musicians in folk, roots and Americana circles. Her songs have been covered by **Joan Baez**, **Bob Geldof**, **Tom Rush** and **Rosanne Cash** and have appeared in films, PBS specials and on prime-time TV. A member of the **Austin Music Hall of Fame** and **Austin Songwriter Hall of Fame**, she has won countless Folk Alliance and Austin Music awards, including 2014's Songwriter of the Year. She'll be announcing North American tour dates soon, both a solo artist and with **Three Women and the Truth (Eliza, Mary Gauthier and Gretchen Peters)**; go to <http://elizagilkyson.com> for updates.

#### **Track Listing:**

1. Solitary Singer
2. Lifelines
3. Conservation
4. In the Name of the Lord
5. Dreamtime
6. Seculare

7. Reunion
8. Sanctuary
9. Through the Looking Glass
10. Emmanuelle
11. Down by the Riverside
12. Instrument

## BIOGRAPHY

**Eliza Gilkyson** is a politically minded, poetically gifted singer-songwriter who has become one of the most respected musicians in folk and Americana music circles. The daughter of legendary songwriter **Terry Gilkyson**, Eliza entered the music world as a teenager, recording demos for her father. Since then she has released 20 recordings of her own, and her songs have been covered by such notables as **Joan Baez**, **Bob Geldof**, **Tom Rush** and **Rosanne Cash**.

The **Grammy-nominated** songwriter has appeared on **NPR**, *Austin City Limits*, *Mountain Stage*, *etown*, **XM Radio**, **Air America Radio** and has toured worldwide as a solo artist and in support of **Richard Thompson**, **Patty Griffin**, **Mary Chapin Carpenter**, **Dan Fogelberg**, as well as with the **Woody Guthrie** review, *Ribbon of Highway-Endless Skyway*, alongside the **Guthrie Family**, **Jimmy LaFave**, **Slaid Cleaves**, and special guests **Pete Seeger**, **Jackson Browne** and **Kris Kristofferson**. She has been inducted into the **Austin Music Hall of Fame** alongside such legends as Willie Nelson, Townes Van Zandt and Nanci Griffith and is an ongoing winner of the *Austin Chronicle's* various music awards, as well as **Folk Alliance awards for Best Artist, Best Songwriter** and **Record of the Year**.

Her CD *Land of Milk and Honey* was nominated for a **GRAMMY** for **Best Contemporary Folk Album**. Eliza's meditative "Requiem," written as a prayer for those who lost their lives in the devastating tsunami in Southeast Asia, was recorded by the nationally recognized choral group **Conspirare**, whose version was nominated for a Grammy and won the prestigious Edison Award in Europe. The song has become a standard in choir repertory the world over. Two of her songs appeared on **Joan Baez's** Grammy-nominated CD, *Day After Tomorrow*. In addition to touring in support of her previous release, *Roses at the End of Time*, in 2011 and 2012 Eliza and label-mates **John Gorka** and **Lucy Kaplansky** performed as "Folk Super Trio" **Red Horse**, a side project whose CD stayed for months at the top of the Folk Music Charts. Eliza recently was invited to contribute a track on the 2014 Jackson Browne tribute, *Looking Into You*, along with Bruce Springsteen, Don Henley, Sara Watkins, Bonnie Raitt, Shawn Colvin and others. She received her second GRAMMY folk nomination in 2015 for her album *The Nocturne Diaries*. In early 2018, **Joan Baez** covered Eliza's song "The Great Correction" on her covers album *Whistle Down the Wind*. Eliza's 20th album, *Secularia*, is set for a summer 2018 release.

Eliza is an active member of the Austin music and political community, including the environmental organization Save Our Springs ([www.sosalliance.org](http://www.sosalliance.org)), and she is a co-founder of [www.5604manor.org](http://www.5604manor.org), an Austin-based activist resource center that promotes political activism and community involvement around issues of race, patriarchy and global injustice.

## RED HOUSE DISCOGRAPHY

*Secularia* - 2018

*The Nocturne Diaries* - 2014

*Roses at the End of Time* – 2011

*Red Horse* (with John Gorka & Lucy Kaplansky) – 2010

*Beautiful World* – 2008  
*Your Town Tonight* – 2007  
*Requiem* (EP) – 2007 (released in UK only)  
*Paradise Hotel* – 2005  
*Land of Milk and Honey* – 2004  
*Lost and Found* – 2002  
*Hard Times in Babylon* – 2000

## PREVIOUS PRESS

“Intimate, delicate-voiced and given to musical introspection . . . her honest voice and understated, life affirming lyrics remain the core of her songs.”

– *People*

“... folk-Americana that makes you think of Lucinda Williams at her most tender (Not My Home).”

– *Mojo Magazine 4 stars*

“Quite Simply, this is a subjectively diverse cornucopia of nocturnal musical delights from Eliza Gilkyson.”

– *Maverick Magazine 5 Stars*

“Gilkyson doesn't pull any punches. She graces the music with her lush and passionate voice; a dark and lonely sound, hope and satisfaction, and edgy lyrics with piercing imagery round out the whole.”

– *New York Times*

“Few folk singers, even those from the original folk revival, have been able to combine social consciousness with musicality as well as Eliza Gilkyson. She merges strong songwriting talent with commanding vocals to create music that has immediate appeal as well as lasting intellectual impact.”

– *Vintage Guitar*

“Like the master writer she is, Gilkyson cuts through the jungle of posturing leftist verbiage and conservative spin...She packs a political punch that is as entertaining and blue-collar as the work of Woody Guthrie”

– *Houston Press*

“With a knowing eye on the past, Eliza Gilkyson is making folk music for the 21st Century, and it's a delightful thing to hear.”

– *Austin Chronicle*

“Honey-on-sandpaper vocal style...with a weathered grace”

– *Paste*

“Gilkyson has raised the composing bar to a whole new level.

– *FolkWax*

“Her work is too good to be ignored. She sings with plaintive power and writes with soulful strength.”

– *Dallas Morning News*

## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

**Grammy Award Nomination – Best Contemporary Folk Album** (*Nocturne Diaries*)  
**Grammy Award Nomination – Best Contemporary Folk Album** (*Land of Milk and Honey*)  
**Austin Music Award – Best Folk Artist**  
**Austin Music Award – Best Songwriter**  
**Austin Music Award – Best Female Vocalist**  
**Austin Music Award – Best Folk Band**  
**Folk Alliance Music Award – Album of the Year** (*Paradise Hotel*)  
**Folk Alliance Music Award – Song of the Year** (“Man of God” - *Paradise Hotel*)  
**Folk Alliance Music Award – Best Solo Artist**  
**Folk Alliance Music Award – Best Contemporary Artist**