



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 2018

**ROUND RECORDS TO RELEASE LIMITED EDITION  
JERRY GARCIA BOXED SET *BEFORE THE DEAD* ON MAY 11<sup>th</sup>  
DOCUMENTING THE ICONIC ARTIST PRIOR TO FORMING THE GRATEFUL  
DEAD AND THE INFLUENCE OF FOLK AND BLUEGRASS TRADITIONS**

**CURATED BY GRATEFUL DEAD PUBLICIST/AUTHOR DENNIS MCNALLY  
AND DOCUMENTARIAN BRIAN MIKSIS HISTORICAL SET TO BE  
RELEASED ON FIVE VINYL LPS OR FOURS CDS FEATURING A DETAILED  
32-PAGE BOOK**

**RARE 1964 LIVE RECORDING OF “ROSA LEE MCFALL” FEATURING  
GARCIA WITH BLACK MOUNTAIN BOYS RELEASED FOR THE FIRST TIME  
([LISTEN HERE](#))**

Nashville, TN – On May 11th, Round Records will release its most ambitious project to date with the long-awaited Jerry Garcia boxed set *Before The Dead*. The project features a meticulously researched and curated compilation of recordings the iconic Grateful Dead founder made prior to forming the legendary band. *Before The Dead* includes never before heard performances, recordings that have never been commercially released and a small selection that have. From intimate live recordings to live studio recordings to field recordings, *Before The Dead* serves as a historical document in the spirit of renowned releases by *Smithsonian Folkways* and influential field recordings by Alan Lomax. The music on *Before The Dead* was selected and co-produced by longtime Grateful Dead publicist/author Dennis McNally and documentarian Brian Miksis. The audio was restored and mastered by Fred Kevorkian.

The first release from *Before The Dead* features the Black Mountain Boys (Garcia, Robert Hunter, David Nelson and Eric Thompson) in a rare 1964 live recording of “Rosa Lee McFall”. Written by Charlie Monroe, the song would remain with Garcia throughout his career, reinterpreted later on with The Grateful Dead, Jerry Garcia Acoustic Band and Garcia/Grisman. This is the first time this track has ever been released.

*Before The Dead* will be released in two physical formats: a 4-CD set and a limited-edition 5-LP boxed set. The 5-LP boxed set is pressed to 180-gram vinyl in a limited edition of 2,500 pieces and includes a special in-depth 32-page book featuring essays by McNally and Miksis, rare photos and memorabilia along with detailed listening notes and commentary on each track by Dr. Neil V. Rosenberg. Aside from being a renowned musicologist, Rosenberg was part of the Redwood Canyon Ramblers, an influential Bay Area bluegrass ensemble that would inspire

a younger generation of players, including Garcia. Each section features a “Tales of the Tape” essay that includes details on how, when and where the music was recorded, how it was found and, in most instances, anecdotes about the particular date, including early interactions with many area musicians before they went on to greater things. Sara Ruppenthal Katz (formerly Sara Garcia, Jerry’s first wife) contributes an enlightening essay around the 1963 recording of her duo performance with Garcia at the intimate Pala Alto, CA club Top Of The Tangent (aka The Tangent). Tangent co-founder Stu Goldstein also adds a piece discussing the club’s origins and how it became a hot spot for the new folk scene that was developing in the Bay Area.

*Before The Dead* sheds light on the earliest period in Jerry Garcia’s odyssey going from the young, charismatic, developing multi-instrumentalist coming of age during the early 1960’s folk-revival (often sarcastically referred to as The Great Folk Scare) to one of the most influential and groundbreaking artists of the rock ‘n roll era. Like many during that time, Garcia’s influences were coming from the deep-rooted folk tradition of artists such as Doc Watson, Earl Scruggs, The Carter Family, The New Lost City Ramblers, The Stanley Brothers, The Weavers, a young Joan Baez and the Harry Smith *Folkways* collections to name a few. These influences would resurface prominently in some of Garcia’s most important work with the Dead on the 1970 albums *Workingman’s Dead* and *American Beauty* — regularly cited as foundational in the creation of what is now referred to as Americana.

From beginning to end, the listener will journey through the musical evolution of Jerry Garcia and how the impact of the folk forbearers gradually permeates his playing and technique. You can hear the earliest origins of Garcia’s signature style budding as he had become a student of the music constantly absorbing and endlessly challenging himself. His instrument rarely left his side from dawn to dusk. What shines brightly throughout the set is Garcia’s outgoing personality and sense of humor, often described as “magnetic”, a clear early indicator.

Throughout this period from 1961 to 1964 were pivotal first-time meetings, (documented in the book) between Garcia and people who would become life-long collaborators and friends. From his revered writing partner and early bandmate Robert Hunter, to mandolin master David Grisman, to each member of the Grateful Dead, to the many artists who would go on to take their own place in music history, including acclaimed instrumentalist Sandy Rothman, David Nelson (co-founder of New Riders of the Purple Sage) and Clarence White, guitarist of the Byrds.

*Before The Dead* showcases Garcia in various ensembles and configurations starting with the rarest piece in the entire collection, the earliest known recording of Garcia captured at his girlfriend’s 16<sup>th</sup> birthday party in 1961 alongside future Grateful Dead lyricist Robert Hunter. Outside of a short clip used in the Grateful Dead documentary *Long Strange Trip*, this recording has never been released,

circulated or heard. Other highlights include the Sleepy Hollow Hog Stompers' 1962 gig in San Carlos, CA, and the Hart Valley Drifters' 1962 recording at Stanford's KZSU Radio Studio A (Garcia's first-known studio recording, released in 2017 for the first time). Arguably Garcia's best and most beloved bluegrass band of that early period, The Black Mountain Boys are prominently featured via three separate occasions in 1963 and 1964, while a 1964 performance by Garcia's Asphalt Jungle Mountain Boys rounds out *Before The Dead*. See a full list of dates, performances and players below.

Despite Jerry Garcia's deep love for folk and bluegrass traditions, his time fully immersed in it was coming to a close. Encounters with one of his heroes, Bill Monroe, whose band he almost auditioned for (and Rothman went on to join), might have sent him deeper in that direction, but it was not to be. (Note: Garcia even used to tape Monroe's shows, a possible foreshadowing of allowing fans to tape Grateful Dead shows later). By the end of 1964, The Beatles had become a household name, The Rolling Stones hit hard with their version of the blues and civil rights had become an important part of the social and political landscape. New influences and inspirations would impact Garcia's direction as he went on to form The Warlocks, who would go on to become The Grateful Dead. However, the foundation in tradition was solidified during those early years and would resurface regularly throughout the remainder of his life in a multitude of ways, including the Dead, The Jerry Garcia Acoustic Band, Old and In The Way, Garcia/Grisman and so much more.

## **Jerry Garcia - *Before The Dead*** **Vinyl Breakdown of Recordings**

See Full Track Listing [HERE](#)

### **SIDE 1**

**Bob and Jerry**

**May 26, 1961**

Brigid Meier's Sixteenth Birthday Party  
Menlo Park, California

\*Original Recordings by Dick Meier

Provided by Brigid Meier

**Performers:**

Jerry Garcia - guitar, vocals

Robert Hunter - vocals

Carlos Book Stall

San Carlos, California

\*Original Recordings by Rodney Albin

Provided by Dennis McNally and Dick

Latvala

**Performers:**

Jerry Garcia - guitar, vocals

Robert Hunter - mandolin

Marshall Leicester - banjo, guitar, vocals

### **SIDE 2**

**Tracks 1 & 2**

**Jerry Garcia, Marshall Leicester, and**

**Robert Hunter**

**July 1961**

Boar's Head Coffeehouse

**Tracks 3 - 7**

**Jerry Garcia and Unknown Musician**

**Summer or fall 1961**

Boar's Head Coffeehouse

Carlos Book Stall

San Carlos, California

\*Original Recordings by Rodney Albin

Provided by Joani Walker and Paul Scotton

**Performers:**

Jerry Garcia - guitar, vocals  
Unknown Musician - bass (tracks 4 & 5)

**SIDE 3**

**Sleepy Hollow Hog Stompers**

**June 11, 1962**

Boar's Head Coffeehouse  
Peninsula Jewish Community Center  
San Carlos, California  
\*Original Recordings by Rodney Albin  
Provided by Barry Glassberg and Adam Egert

**Performers:**

Jerry Garcia – banjo, guitar, vocals  
Dick Arnold - fiddle, vocals  
Marshall Leicester - banjo, guitar, vocals

**SIDES 4 & 5**

**Hart Valley Drifters**

**Fall 1962**

KZSU Radio Studio A  
Stanford University, Stanford, California  
\*Original Recordings by Ted Claire

**Performers:**

Jerry Garcia – banjo, guitar, vocals  
Ken Frankel - banjo, fiddle, guitar  
Robert Hunter - bass, vocals  
Norm Van Maastricht - dobro  
David Nelson - guitar, vocals

**SIDE 6**

**The Wildwood Boys**

**February 23, 1963**

Top of the Tangent  
Palo Alto, California  
\*Original Recordings by Ted Claire  
Provided by Stu Goldstein

**Performers:**

Jerry Garcia – banjo, guitar, vocals  
Robert Hunter - mandolin, vocals  
David Nelson - guitar, vocals  
Norm Van Maastricht - bass, guitar, vocals

**SIDE 7**

**Jerry and Sara Garcia**

**May 4, 1963**

Top of the Tangent  
Palo Alto, California  
\*Original Recordings by Dave Schoenstadt  
Provided by Stu Goldstein

**Performers:**

Jerry Garcia - banjo, guitar, mandolin, vocals  
Sara Garcia - guitar, vocals

**SIDE 8**

**Tracks 1- 4**

**Black Mountain Boys**

**Fall 1963**

Top of the Tangent  
Palo Alto, California  
\*Recordings Provided by Dennis McNally, Joan Baylie, and Jim Mullins

**Performers:**

Jerry Garcia – banjo, guitar, vocals  
Robert Hunter - bass, vocals  
David Nelson - mandolin, vocals  
Eric Thompson - guitar, vocals

**Tracks 5 - 8**

**Black Mountain Boys**

**January 10, 1964**

Top of the Tangent  
Palo Alto, California  
\*Recordings Provided by Eric Thompson

**Performers:**

Jerry Garcia – banjo, guitar, vocals  
Robert Hunter - bass, vocals  
David Nelson - mandolin, vocals  
Eric Thompson - guitar, vocals

**SIDE 8**

**Tracks 9 & 10**

**Black Mountain Boys**

**March 6, 1964**

Top of the Tangent  
Palo Alto, California  
\*Original Recordings by John Clayton

**Performers:**

Jerry Garcia – banjo, vocals  
Geoff Levin - bass  
David Nelson - mandolin, vocals

Sandy Rothman - guitar, vocals

## **SIDE 9**

### **Black Mountain Boys**

**March 6, 1964**

**Top of the Tangent**

**Palo Alto, California**

\*Original Recordings by John Clayton  
(tracks 1 & 2)

Recordings Provided by Sandy  
Rothman (tracks 3-10)

#### **Performers:**

Jerry Garcia – banjo, guitar, vocals

Geoff Levin - bass

David Nelson - mandolin, vocals

Sandy Rothman - guitar, vocals

## **SIDE 10**

**Tracks 1-5**

### **Black Mountain Boys**

**March 6, 1964**

**Top of the Tangent**

**Palo Alto, California**

\*Recordings Provided by Sandy  
Rothman

#### **Performers:**

Jerry Garcia – banjo, guitar, vocals

Geoff Levin - bass

David Nelson - mandolin, vocals

Sandy Rothman - guitar, vocals

### **Track 6**

#### **Black Mountain Boys**

**Spring 1964**

**Top of the Tangent**

**Palo Alto, California**

\*Recording Provided by Sandy Rothman

#### **Performers:**

Jerry Garcia – banjo, vocals

David Nelson - mandolin, vocals

Sandy Rothman - guitar, vocals

### **Tracks 7-10**

#### **Asphalt Jungle Mountain Boys**

**Summer 1964**

**Top of the Tangent**

**Palo Alto, California**

\*Recordings Provided by Dennis  
McNally, Joan Baylie, and Jim Mullins

#### **Performers:**

Jerry Garcia – banjo, vocals

Herb Pedersen - vocals (track 7 only)

Jody Stecher - mandolin, vocals

Eric Thompson - guitar

Butch Waller - vocals (track 7 only)

**For press information about *Before The Dead* please contact Jim Flammia  
at All Eyes Media [jim@alleyesmedia.com](mailto:jim@alleyesmedia.com), (615) 227-2770.**