

Town Mountain Releases *New Freedom Blues*

Acclaimed by Rolling Stone, The Bluegrass Situation, The Boot, Among Others

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Today, [Town Mountain](#) releases their critically-acclaimed sixth studio album *New Freedom Blues*. Originally announced by [The Bluegrass Situation](#) in June, producer Caleb Klauder joined the Asheville, North Carolina based band at the legendary Echo Mountain Studios late last year to record the 11-track masterpiece, which features drummer and Sturgill Simpson collaborator **Miles Miller**, as well as a duet and co-write with Tyler Childers. Praised by outlets like [Rolling Stone](#), [No Depression](#), [American Songwriter](#), [Glide](#), and SiriusXM among others. The band recently played **AmericanaFest** and appeared on the **Grand Ole Opry** for the third time; they are currently touring throughout the Southeast and **will join Tyler Childers** for a handful of dates throughout Texas and Oklahoma in December (full dates below). *New Freedom Blues* is available today via [Amazon](#), [iTunes](#), [Spotify](#), and [the band's website](#).

As the Asheville quintet's sixth studio album and the follow-up to 2016's *Southern Crescent*, *New Freedom Blues* marks an exciting new chapter for the band – one in which they fearlessly consider what it means to make bluegrass-influenced music in the modern era and one that should be a welcome listen for fans who have come to love the band's raucous, no-holds-barred live performances.

"The album is somewhat of a departure from the sound that we've typically recorded, our 'bluegrass sound'," banjo player Jesse Langlais explains. "We took the songs at their face value in the studio this time, as opposed to trying to take a song and make it fit inside certain bluegrass parameters. It morphed into this idea that we should be playing the songs for what they are as opposed to what we thought they should be."

Recorded at Asheville's Echo Mountain Studios with producer Caleb Klauder, the tracks that comprise *New Freedom Blues* span the sum total of the band's eclectic influences, from traditional bluegrass to roots pop to hardscrabble honky tonk. The album also marks the first time the band brought a drummer – Sturgill Simpson collaborator Miles Miller – into the studio.

"Having a full drum kit on the record gave the songs a bigger sound," mandolin player and vocalist Phil Barker says. "Miles has a great musical sense, a deep pocket, and rhythmically, a strong foundation. With him and Zach [Smith] playing together, it was a solid wall of sound for all of us to ride on. He's really intuitive about what a song needs, when to give it space, and when to make it rock a little harder."

The album opens with the title track, a hard-driving roots rocker about the bittersweet feeling that comes after making the difficult decision to end a relationship. Anchored by a propulsive beat from Miller and featuring virtuosic displays of musicianship from the players themselves, the track seamlessly bridges the gap between the band's old-school influences and their progressive, genre-bending inclinations.

"'New Freedom Blues' is about the feeling you get after you've broken up with someone or done something you thought would be best in the long run," Barker explains. "You keep telling yourself it was the right thing to do, but the second-guessing hurts like hell. The song specifically talks about a relationship, but the feeling could be applied to any life decisions, political or otherwise."

The tune and the album title also cleverly nod to the band's sonic evolution, as well as their willingness to speak up about issues of inequality in the age of Trump. Album highlight "Life and Debt," with lyrics like, "Piles and piles and miles of cash / couldn't get me back to where I once was at," is an unflinching look at the difficult financial realities faced by most Americans.

"Lyrically, I'm trying to convey the struggle that most of us have with some form of debt," Langlais says of "Life and Debt". "Looking back to my first year of college, I recall credit card companies setting up shop in the student union, essentially handing out lines of credit to children with zero money management skills. It's predatory behavior in my opinion, but I'm trying to get that across in a lighthearted way. However, it is a very serious matter. The line, 'all the money's in the politicians' hands' is a jab at our current political climate. As long as those folks up on Capitol Hill continue to keep their pockets greased, this will be an issue."

In crafting the new album, Town Mountain also called upon friend and fellow musician Tyler Childers, who **co-wrote the track "Down Low"** with Langlais, the album's closing cut and an aching take on, as Langlais puts it, "one's buzz being too big." "To me 'Down Low' has a Waylon vibe, which is a damn good vibe to have," Langlais says. "My favorite line in the song, which was a Tyler line, is, 'I've been getting into meanness on the dark end of the street.' Ahh, that's downright lonesome."

Town Mountain is Langlais, Barker, vocalist/guitarist Robert Greer, fiddle player Bobby Britt, and bassist Zach Smith. Since releasing their debut album *Original Bluegrass and Roots Country* in 2007, Town Mountain have made a name for themselves in bluegrass and roots circuits and have amassed a sizable catalog of original songs. They've toured with a who's who of like-minded artists, including Ralph Stanley and His Clinch Mountain Boys, the Del McCoury Band, Greensky Bluegrass, Yonder Mountain String Band, and

many others. *Southern Crescent* debuted at number four on Billboard's Bluegrass Chart, and held strong in the Americana Music Association's Radio Chart Top Forty for 10 weeks. In 2016, Town Mountain made their Grand Ole Opry debut, performing both at the Opry House and at the famed Ryman Auditorium.

With *New Freedom Blues*, Town Mountain has found a way to build off their past accomplishments and deep musical roots and to craft something new, exciting, and unapologetically authentic in terms of who they are as musicians and as people. Langlais sums it up well, saying, "This album illustrates the fact that bluegrass music will continue to be an ever-changing genre."

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Tour Dates:

Nov 17 – Huntington, WV – The V Club
Nov 30 – Greer, SC – The Spinning Jenny
Dec 1 – Winston Salem, NC – The Ramkat
Dec 6 – Harrisonburg, VA – The Clementine Cafe
Dec 8 – Virginia Beach, VA – Zeiders American Dream Theater
Dec 11 – Tulsa, OK – Cain's Ballroom *
Dec 12 – New Braunfels, TX – Gruene Hall *
Dec 13 – New Braunfels, TX – Gruene Hall *
Dec 15 – Oklahoma City, OK – Tower Theatre *
Dec 16 – Dallas, TX – The Rustic *

*** with Tyler Childers**

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