

ROUNDER RECORDS ARTIST BIO

All My Friends: Celebrating the Songs & Voice of Gregg Allman Release Date: May 6, 2014



On January 10, 2014, a multi-generational assortment of musicians from the worlds of rock, blues and country joined together at Atlanta's historic Fox Theatre for a once-in-a-lifetime all-star performance to pay tribute to the life and music of the legendary singer/musician/songwriter Gregg Allman. That live musical event can now be experienced via the new multimedia package *All My Friends: Celebrating the Songs & Voice of Gregg Allman*.

Shot in high definition video with 5:1 Dolby sound, this one-DVD, two-CD package (also available in multiple format variations including Blu-Ray) captures the four-hour concert event in its entirety. The show features a diverse assortment of high-profile Allman admirers paying tribute to the iconic veteran rocker, delivering distinctive new performances of classic material drawn from his four and a half decades as a recording artist, encompassing his landmark work with the legendary Allman Brothers Band as well as his parallel solo career.

The variety of the artists paying tribute to Allman, and the diversity of their interpretations of his songs, attests to the broad appeal of Allman's talents, which transcend stylistic and generational boundaries. With musical direction by noted producer/musician Don Was, several of the guest performers are drawn from the Allman Brothers Band's extended musical family, including current ABB guitarists Warren Haynes and Derek Trucks (who also appears here with his wife and frequent musical partner Susan Tedeschi) and Gregg's talented son Devon Allman.

The prestigious slate of performers also includes such Allman contemporaries as Jackson Browne, Dr. John, John Hiatt, Taj Mahal, Wet Willie singer Jimmy Hall and classic soul man Sam Moore (of Sam and Dave fame), along with such younger acts as Robert Randolph, Keb' Mo', Widespread Panic and Pat Monahan of Train. The world of country music, long a key component in Allman's musical consciousness, is represented here by such notable guest performers as Eric Church, Trace Adkins, Vince Gill, Martina McBride, Zac Brown, Brantley Gilbert and Jess Franklin.

All My Friends: Celebrating the Songs & Voice of Gregg Allman would not be complete without Allman's own authoritative voice, which is spotlighted here on collaborative readings of landmark tunes with Gregg's onetime L.A. roommate Jackson Browne ("These Days," "Melissa"), Vince Gill and Zac Brown ("Midnight Rider") and Taj Mahal ("Statesboro Blues"). Gregg also joins with the Allman Brothers Band to deliver fiery readings of the classics "Dreams" and "Whipping Post," which precede a set-closing "Will the Circle Be Unbroken," performed by the show's full cast. With the recent announcement that the Allman Brothers Band will cease touring at the end of 2014, these may be among the last recordings of the band on stage.

The *All My Friends* show also features a prestigious house band that includes Don Was on bass, former Allman Brothers Band members Chuck Leavell (keyboards) and Jack Pearson (guitar), ex-Black Crowes guitarist Audley Freed, Wallflowers keyboardist Rami Jaffee and renowned drummer-to-the-stars Kenny Aronoff.

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As Allman later enthused, "That show was one of the highlights of my life. It was great to see old friends, and everyone was so gracious and really poured their souls into my songs. It was a very special night."

In most video formats, *All My Friends* also features extensive bonus video material, including 26 exclusive interviews with the show's performers, candid behind-the-scenes material, and historic footage of a special presentation of to Allman.

Gregg Allman is one of rock's most acclaimed and beloved icons, possessing a distinctively soulful voice and singular songwriting ability that resonate through a musical career that spans nearly half a century. Growing up in Daytona Beach, Florida, Gregg and his older brother Duane shared a passion for music and a deep affinity for the blues, hitting the road with their band the Allman Joys (later known as the Hour Glass) as soon as Gregg graduated from high school.

After some unhappy early brushes with the recording industry and a frustrating stint in Los Angeles, Gregg and Duane returned to their home state in 1969 and formed the Allman Brothers Band, which quickly emerged as one of America's most original and influential musical outfits, releasing such albums as *The Allman Brothers Band*, *Idlewild South* and the breakthrough 1971 live release *At Fillmore East*.

The Allman Brothers Band suffered a devastating blow when Duane Allman was killed in a motorcycle accident in October 1971. Despite the loss of his brother and the group's original driving force, Gregg and his bandmates rallied, driving the Allman Brothers Band to even greater success with the albums *Eat A Peach* and *Brothers and Sisters*. In 1973, Gregg branched out into a solo career with the well-received *Laid Back*, which he supported with an elaborate tour on which he was accompanied by a 14-person backup band.

In the decades that followed, Gregg has remained a dynamic and prolific musical force, both with the Allman Brothers Band and as a solo artist. The group experienced a major resurgence in the 1990s, and in the years since has maintained its position as America's foremost Southern rock band and rock's greatest improvisational ensemble. Gregg, meanwhile, has continued to win acclaim for such acclaimed solo releases as *I'm No Angel*, *Searching for Simplicity* and his 2011 Rounder Records debut, the Grammy-nominated *Low Country Blues*.

Gregg, along with the Allman Brothers Band, was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of fame in 1995. At the 54th Annual Grammy Awards in 2012, the group was honored with a prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. The same year, Gregg's critically acclaimed tell-all memoir, *My Cross to Bear*, spent several weeks as a *New York Times* Bestseller.