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**CELEBRATED SINGER/SONGWRITER CARRIE NEWCOMER BRINGS
DEEP SPIRITUAL CURRENT TO NEW ALBUM *BEFORE AND AFTER*
ON ROUNDER RECORDS, FEBRUARY 23, 2010**

“Rapturously tuneful, Newcomer’s material asks all the right questions and refuses to settle for easy answers.” - *Rolling Stone*

Carrie Newcomer has gathered critical acclaim and a devoted following over the years for combining her irreverent yet deeply spiritual view of the world with what the Dallas Morning News praised as her “warm, rich alto and penchant for exquisite melodies.” These gifts are on display in Newcomer’s brand new album from Rounder Records, “Before and After” (February 23, 2010), which the singer/songwriter calls “the most unguarded and naked work I’ve ever done.”

In the songs, performance and production, this album is about “paring down...peeling back layers to get to the heart of what really matters,” Newcomer says. Musically, “it’s about playing the most elegant notes and placing them perfectly.” Spiritually, it’s about “what really sustains us? In a time of change and transition, where do we find solid ground?” As Newcomer notes about her song “Stones in the River,” we’re all searching for our spirit’s true north.

A Quaker whose work is inspired and influenced by her friendships and collaborations with notable authors, theologians and fellow songwriters such as Parker J. Palmer, Phillip Gulley, Jim Wallis, Brian McLaren, Scott Russell Sanders, Barbara Kingsolver and Jill Bolte Taylor, Newcomer has explored spiritual themes in her music throughout her career. The search for the sacred in the mundane is illustrated by songs on *Before and After* that she calls “hymns,” that attempt to capture the moments of transcendence in every day life. “I Do Not Know It’s Name” is a “little hymn to mystery and the mysterious” “Do No Harm” is “a hymn for those who believe in the possibility of the peaceable kingdom here on earth, here and now.”

Newcomer has a unique ability to cross spiritual/secular boundaries on a daily basis. She plays in churches, music halls, bars, and on college campuses and at spiritual communities and conferences. —and doesn’t change what she does for her varied audiences. She finds her openness and willingness to be authentic about the spiritual life resonates with even the most secular audiences, demonstrating “how permeable that line between spiritual and secular is,” she says.

“Our world is filled with endless distractions that ask us to move ever faster and focus less, but it is when I slow down and pay attention that I’m actually present in my life,” says Newcomer. Continually examining herself and the world around her, Newcomer muses, “I’ve come to believe there are no easy answers in this life, but there are some very good questions.”

Before and After combines the very best of Newcomer’s folk-roots sound, overlaid with Appalachian and classical influences. Featuring a special guest appearance from Mary Chapin Carpenter, the album launches itself with an unforgettably haunting and beautiful collaboration from two of acoustic music’s most resonant female vocalists.

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Co-produced by David Weber at Airtime Studios in Bloomington, Indiana, *Before and After* is Newcomer's twelfth release on Rounder, with prior albums including *Regulars & Refugees*, *The Age of Possibility*, *The Gathering of Spirits*, the *Betty's Diner* collection and her last album, the critically acclaimed *The Geography of Light*. The melodious sound on *Before and After* results from closely working with a core of exceptional musicians who combine piano, violin, mandolin, cello, bass and percussion with Newcomer's adept guitar work and soulful voice, which the *Austin Statesman* has described as being "as rich as Godiva chocolate." Newcomer's music has been praised in *Rolling Stone*, *The Village Voice*, *USA Today*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Acoustic Guitar*, *Performing Songwriter*, *Paste Magazine* and many other outlets. She has toured with Alison Krauss and Union Station, and her song "I Should've Known Better" was recorded by Nickel Creek on their Grammy®-winning, gold-selling album *This Side*. Her 2008 release, *The Geography of Light*, earned her Artist of the Year and Album of the Year from *Folk Wax Magazine*.

In addition to a busy year of recording and touring, in 2009 Newcomer was invited by The American Centre to visit India as a cultural ambassador, where she met and performed concerts with Indian musicians, and taught workshops on songwriting and community involvement – continuing her emphasis on outreach and helping others. About her impressions of India, Newcomer says, "music can be a language deeper than words. I love our differences. Cultures are rich, and what makes each culture unique should be celebrated, but I was also powerfully moved by what we share as a human family."

For more information and upcoming tour dates, visit www.carriewcomer.com and www.rounder.com.

Track list for *Before and After*

1. Before and After (featuring a special guest appearance from Mary Chapin Carpenter)
2. Ghost Train
3. I Do Not Know Its Name
4. Stones in the River
5. If Not Now
6. A Small Flashlight
7. I Meant To Do My Work Today
8. A Simple Change of Heart
9. Hush
10. Coy Dogs
11. Do No Harm
12. I Wish I May, I Wish I Might
13. Bonus Track: A Crash of Rhinoceros

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