

MARY FLOWER

MISERY LOVES COMPANY

NEW ALBUM BY RENOWNED ROOTS/BLUES GUITARIST MARY FLOWER
Set for National Release October 11, 2011

Mary Flower's dazzling instrumental prowess and engaging vocal style come out of the self-sufficient tradition of American blues artists who go forth armed with a guitar and a suitcase full of songs. Still, the 2008 Blues Music Award nominee for "Acoustic Artist of the Year" knows about the joys of companionship, as her new Yellow Dog Records release, *Misery Loves Company*, decisively demonstrates. *Misery Loves Company* is an album of duets — a helping of down-home hospitality that finds Mary hosting some of roots music's most accomplished players.

When it came time to record her fourth Yellow Dog record, Mary called upon some of the finest players in her home town of Portland OR, where Mary has lived since 2004. Already known for her awesome technique and interpretative skills, Mary wanted to create a record that documented a stripped-down approach she felt she could only get from working in the duet mode.

Misery Loves Company isn't a collection of down-and-out complaints, despite the title. Although Mary chose songs that describe life's struggles — the material on *Misery* ranges from her "Way Down in the Bottom" to Muddy Waters' "Hard Day Blues" — the result is a spirited document of some once-in-a-lifetime meetings of the minds.

On Mary's "I'm Dreaming of Your Demise," famed jazz pianist and composer **Dave Frishberg** lays down some bebop chord voicings. The Toronto-born guitarist and producer **Colin Linden** — known for his production work for Canadian singer Bruce Cockburn and for Yellow Dog artist Eden Brent on her 2010 *Ain't Got No Troubles* — adds electric dobro to "Way Down in the Bottom." Harmonica player **Curtis Salgado** — a former member of both Robert Cray's band and Santana — accompanies Mary on "Hard Day Blues."

Already celebrated as one of the leading practitioners of the challenging Piedmont blues style, Mary brings her immaculate fingerpicking to bear on *Misery Loves Company*. She is also a master of the lap steel guitar, which she plays with a blend of open strings and partial chords. It's this mastery that has made her a favorite of blues aficionados over her 35-year career. Her empathy with fellow musicians makes *Misery Loves Company* an amazing example of the art of the duet.

The record came about from Mary's long-standing desire to seek out the great players who live in Portland. She wanted to make a recording that was more intimate than her acclaimed 2005 *Bywater Dance*, which featured such players as New Orleans pianist Henry Butler and keyboardist Jon Cleary playing behind Mary in a variety of full-band settings.

