

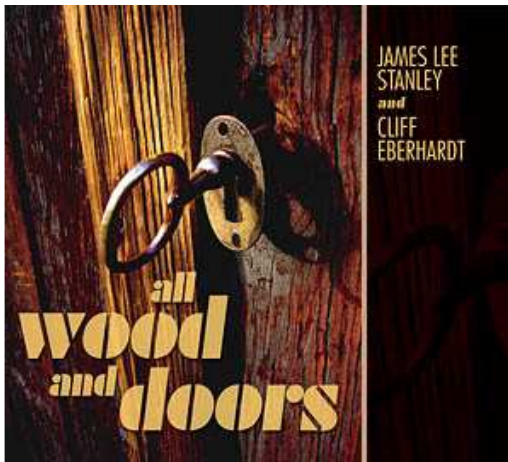
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## BREAKING ON THROUGH

James Lee Stanley, Cliff Eberhardt put new spin on Doors classics



He would have been pleased just to obtain an autograph from **Doors** drummer **John Densmore**, but **James Lee Stanley** ended up with so much more.

First came positive remarks from Densmore about *All Wood and Stones*, Stanley's album with **John Batdorf** that featured acoustic versions of 11 **Rolling Stones** songs.

Then came an even bigger surprise: Densmore's offer to play with Stanley if he ever wanted to give Doors material the same treatment.

"I was stunned that he even knew who I was," Stanley says, recalling a lunch in California with Densmore that also included a mutual friend. "And when he offered to play [with me], I thought, 'This sure sounds like a gift from heaven.'"



James Lee Stanley

Densmore kept his promise; he appears on *All Wood and Doors* (Beachwood Recordings). Other notable guests on the album include Doors guitarist **Robby Krieger**, as well as longtime Stanley friend **Peter Tork** (**The Monkees**) and **Timothy B. Schmit** (**The Eagles**).

Featuring 12 Doors songs, *All Wood and Doors* — Stanley's first collaboration with fellow singer/guitarist **Cliff Eberhardt** — is anything but a collection of straightforward, by-the-numbers interpretations. In addition to the material being presented in an acoustic format, the tempos have been changed, and the songs' structures and arrangements have been reworked.

A perfect example of a tune getting a complete makeover is "Touch Me," which at first was a very unlikely candidate for the album when Stanley and Eberhardt started recording in May 2010.



**Cliff Eberhardt**

"I was a big Doors fan, but I didn't like that song," Stanley says. "And I remember when I called Cliff about doing this album, he [made it clear he didn't want to do] 'Touch Me,' and I said I was OK with that.

"By the time he got [to California]," Stanley adds, "a friend of mine had said we should do 'Touch Me' because it has one of the most beautiful refrains in rock 'n' roll — 'I'm gonna love you ... ' So when Cliff came, we started playing it, and I said, 'What do you think about starting with the chorus?' And he said, 'I think that's a cool idea.' "

Hard-core Doors fans will have to rely on their ears to figure out which songs feature Densmore and Krieger. *All Wood and Doors* (due July 12) will not contain that information, and Stanley remains tightlipped about the details.

"I remember listening to **Steely Dan** when they first came out, and the albums didn't say who was playing on what," Stanley says. "At first I found it maddening — I wanted to know who did what — but then I thought it was kind of cool. You play this guessing game trying to figure out who played what on what, and I decided to do that on this album.

"A year or two from now, if anyone cares," he adds with a laugh, "I'll tell them."

— By **Chris M. Junior**

*Photo of James Lee Stanley by Andrea Cross*

*Photo of Cliff Eberhardt by Stephen Paley*

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