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FOR RELEASE

Armadillo Records Presents *Carry Me Home*

music on their own terms – music for music's sake
Joe Nick Patoski, November 15, 2009

Armadillo Records released *Carry Me Home* (CD1001), from **Hank & Shaidri Alrich with Doug Harman** at the recent Armadillo Christmas Bazaar. Doug's cello combined with this daughter-father duo to complete an acoustic ensemble whose pristine clarity is appropriate to the nature of the songs - some traditional, some by Hank, and some from other songwriters who likewise value elegant simplicity. "Wonderfully blended vocals and sparkling strings (guitars, cello, mandolin, violin) were captured live in the studio at high audio resolution for a remarkable listening experience," said Producer Hank Alrich.

In September, Shaidri and Executive Producer Fletcher Clark traveled to Hank's in northeastern California, joined by Doug who came east from Marin County, to try out this concept. Two days of arranging, rehearsing and demo recording in Hank's studio made it clear that this was a great and timely idea. Arrangements were made to record at Fred Remmert's Cedar Creek Recording in South Austin, "It has comfortable spaces with excellent acoustics, an exceptional selection of microphones and tube processors, and at its heart a legendary Neve console with profound warmth," said Clark. "And of course, Fred's superb engineering."

All tracking was done in three consecutive eight-hour days, with all three artists set up in a triangle, recording together without headphones, click-tracks, or overdubs. After taking a couple of days off, ten tracks were selected and mixed in two more eight-hour days, and mastered two days later by Jerry Tubb at Terra Nova Digital Audio (currently reviewed in the 12/09 issue of MIX Magazine). "Recorded and mixed digitally at 24-bit/96kHz (*i.e.*, word length/sample rate), the result is high resolution audio to please the most discriminating ears – all completed within nine days," said Clark.

Armadillo Records first emerged in 1969 with a single by Austin group *Shiva's Head Band*. Picked up by Capitol Records, their manager Eddie Wilson used the signing bonus to lease an abandoned National Guard armory in South Austin. On August 7, 1970, it opened as the home of legendary

concert hall Armadillo World Headquarters. After Hank built a recording studio in the complex, quality live concert recordings (as well as studio projects) could be made, with releases by Bugs Henderson Group, Kenneth Threadgill, *et al.*, and then the LP *Christmas on the Autoharp* by Lindsay Haisley in 1982. *Carry Me Home* represents the re-emergence of Armadillo Records. Other releases - some new, some derivative, some re-issues, some archival - will herald the 40th Birthday Year.

Hank Alrich is a multi-instrumentalist, composer-songwriter, engineer-producer who began his performing career in 1962 as the house folksinger at a Lake Tahoe coffehouse. In 1966 he began a two-year US Army stint at Ft. Sam Houston, in San Antonio, Texas. Upon discharge, he expanded his musical scope beyond performance by adding professional audio recording, music production and sound reinforcement. In 1971 he moved to Austin and performed with several fine bands at Armadillo World Headquarters (of which he would eventually become the manager, presiding over its successful last chapters). Backing artists such as Doug Kershaw and Charlie Daniels, he also played on the pilot for Austin City Limits. Along the way he found time to build Onion Audio, a legendary recording facility at the Armadillo, and take his place as one of the most authoritative voices among the community of high-end audio geeks. Hank returned with his family to his native California in 1985, settling in Plumas County on the eastern edge of the Sierra Nevada, where he remains active in area arts and entertainment.

For Shaidri Alrich, making music was second nature, since she grew up singing and playing violin, piano and guitar. She and her father played as a duo around Plumas County during her teenage years and developed a fervent following until she struck out on her own at the age of 17. Whenever she returned home, Hank and Shaidri would play music together. After a Plumas Arts organization open mic night, folks asked if they had a CD. In 2008, having moved from Lexington, KY (and before that, Juneau, AK), she considered moving to Hawaii but opted for Austin, where she was born. Shaidri moved to Austin that May. Since Hank began returning to Austin soon thereafter, they have regularly played at the storied Threadgill's Old #1, the spiritual heir to the Armadillo, where Janis Joplin (another great singer) came of age.

Doug Harman, versatile instrumentalist, arranger, producer and teacher, resides in Novato, Marin County, California. He moved there from his native Austin in 1977 (along with the other members of Fletcher's band, *Balcones Fault*). His prodigal childhood talents on cello, piano and guitar led him to the vaunted music programs at the University of Texas and North Texas State. He met and played with Hank in the '70's in and around Austin, and they have since collaborated on several shows in Northern California. He has been a sought-out sideman in the Bay Area for many artists, including (the late) Norton Buffalo and Lorin Rowan (brother to Peter Rowan).

A bittersweet footnote is the passing of Armadillo Records' Art Director, Bill Narum, who left this world on November 18, 2009, two days after sending off the artwork for *Carry Me Home*, his last completed design.

Carry Me Home is available at selected local outlets who value this music (Waterloo in Austin, Sundance in San Marcos), and on the internet from CDBaby.com and LoneStarMusic.com.