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Mark Robinson Voted “Best Roots/Americana Guitar Player” in *The Alternate Root Magazine’s* 2013 Readers’ Choice Awards

Robinson sends a big “Thank You” to his fans

[NASHVILLE, TN - April 17, 2013] With more than 50,000 votes cast in the 2nd Annual *Alternate Root Magazine* Readers’ Choice Awards, Nashville blues-rock guitar slinger Mark Robinson has taken top billing as Best Roots/Americana Guitar Player. The results, announced by *The Alternate Root* on April 15, included winners in thirteen categories, including performing artists, musicians, albums, and even "Best Roots/Americana Venue": <http://www.thealternateroot.com/what-s-trending/1066-the-alternate-root-reader-s-choice-awards>

The fifteen nominees in the Guitar Player category included outstanding musicians in Roots, Americana, Blues, and Alt-Country, among them Derek Trucks and Rosie Flores (who round out the top three in the polling results), Kenny Vaughan, Darrell Scott, Will Kimbrough, Buddy Miller, Colin Linden, Dave Rawlings, Sergio Webb, Bonnie Raitt, Pete Anderson, Richard Thompson, Eric “Roscoe” Ambel, and Patterson Hood.

“This is really quite an honor,” said Robinson. “It’s great to see my fans turn out in such numbers. The caliber of all the nominees is top-notch, and I was thrilled to be listed among them. Thanks to *The Alternate Root*, and big thanks to all the folks who voted (early and often, as they say in my old stomping grounds of Chicago) to put me in the lead.”

The Alternate Root Magazine is a top-ranked music website (TheAlternateRoot.com) with over 72,000 unique readers per month. In addition, Alternate Root TV, a weekly one-hour show now in its third season, features in-studio performances, interviews, and videos of the best in roots, Americana, blues, bluegrass, and alt-country. All of the nominees in all of the 2nd Annual Readers’ Choice Award categories had been featured in the magazine or on the television show in the past year. In early February *The Alternate Root* published its picks for the Top 20 Roots Guitar Players, which included Mark Robinson, as well as other Readers’ Choice Award nominees.

It’s been quite a year for Mark Robinson. This award follows the release of Robinson’s new CD, *Have Axe - Will Groove*, the follow-up to his acclaimed debut album *Quit Your Job - Play Guitar*. The new album has been getting excellent reviews (see below) and media attention including the forthcoming:

- AirPlay Direct’s newly re-launched **Direct Buzz** will feature Robinson and the album in the May 2013 edition.
- **Blues Matters!**, the UK’s premier blues magazine, has an interview with Robinson coming up in the new June-July 2013 issue.
- The CD has received airplay on more than 200 radio stations, with more added every week (the internationally syndicated “**Blues Debut**” show has *Have Axe - Will Groove* at the #13 slot on its “Top 25” for the first week of April).
- “**The Guitar Show with Andy Ellis**” will feature Robinson on its second live broadcast from Nashville’s 3rd & Lindsley nightclub on May 23.
- Mark Robinson will again be a featured pro at the 5th annual **TSU Guitar Summit** in Nashville, April 19-21.

More information on all the above at www.MarkRobinsonGuitar.com.

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(over for album info)

SELECTED BUZZ FOR THE CD _____

"Robinson's new album fully delivers on the promise of his critically acclaimed 2010 debut release, *Quit Your Job – Play Guitar ...* He hits his stride on every track, flush with uncommon spirit."

—Frank-John Hadley, *DOWNBEAT Columnist*

"With a blockbuster debut album under his belt – 2010's *Quit Your Job, Play Guitar* was one of the year's best recordings – Robinson comes roaring back with this impressive sophomore effort. *Have Axe - Will Groove* serves up eleven tasty new jams, most of 'em Robinson originals that display his incredible six-string talents that add the sizzle to a healthy, rocking hybrid of blues, rock, soul, and Southern-fried funk."

—Reverend Keith A. Gordon, *ABOUT.COM BLUES*

"Robinson is a gifted guitarist, playing acoustic, electric and slide ... On top he is a songwriter of calibre ... Best track here for me is the closer, 'Blue Moon Howl' with its sense of foreboding, mystery and eeriness." —Merv Osborne, *BLUES MATTERS!*

"Mr. Robinson's neighborhood is full of grit, authenticity and is connected to the roots of the blues; his guitar work is best described in one word: 'tone'. Like the modern-day gunslinger that he alludes to in his title, he truly lives up to the the moniker 'Have Axe-Will Groove'." —Chefjimi. *BLUES411.COM*

"... stellar playing. Robinson's excellent on either electric, slide or acoustic guitar. ... [He] even includes glockenspiel within the blues sphere, but the best thing about *Have Axe - Will Groove* is his explosiveness and expertise." —Ron Wynn, *ARTSNASH*

"5 Stars ... another brilliantly done album from an equally brilliant group of artists, especially Mark Robinson ... thoroughly enjoyed and highly recommended." —John Vermilyea, *BLUES UNDERGROUND NETWORK*

"... strong performances ... Mark Robinson once again clearly articulates his musical vision."
—Mark Thompson, *BLUES BLAST MAGAZINE*

"I recommend this CD from the bottom of my Blues heart."
—Ken Utterback, *EXAMINER.COM Nashville Blues*

"This is about as good as bands get on the contemporary Blues scene. Well rooted in the history of the blues, Robinson mixes it up, delivering an absolutely delightful set of music on his latest that speaks volumes for the resident of Nashville." —Bill Wilson, *BILLTOWN BLUE NOTES*

HAVE AXE -- WILL GROOVE • Mark Robinson
Blind Chihuahua Records
(Released February 26, 2013)

Producer: Mark Robinson
Associate Producer: Daniel Seymour
Engineers: Jim Burnett, Mark Robinson & Daniel Seymour
Recorded and mixed at Guido's Studio South, Nashville, TN
CD Design: Alicia Adkerson, Adkerson Design
Mastering: Paul Mahern, Mahern Audio
Photographs: Gregg Roth

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ALBUM INFO _____