

David Mallett is one of America's true original troubadours. In a career spanning four decades, he has recorded 17 albums, had several hundred covers of his songs, including the American folk classic "Garden Song" [Inch by Inch] and performed in clubs, concert halls and festivals across the US, Canada and Europe. He has appeared on numerous broadcasts, including National Public Radios A Prairie Home companion. Known for his carefully written, poetic offerings, his body of work has provided material for an eclectic list of artists that includes Alison Krauss, Pete Seeger, Hal Ketchum, Emmylou Harris, John Denver and the Muppets.

Now comes *Alright Now* - his first collection of new songs in more than six years. It is the culmination of 30 years of songwriting, capturing keen observations about the soul of everyday life, and is arguably Mallett's most forward thinking collection to date. The songs on *Alright Now* cover a wide range of topics and moods -- public and private, hopeful, fragile, nostalgic, bitter, loving. "North Meets South" was inspired by the recent heated political climate. "Ten Men" the album opener, is an almost cinematic song inspired by the disparity between people and power. "Beautiful" is a fitting title for a tender love song written for his daughter, and after some bittersweet reflections on aging, success and friendship "Alright Now" ends the album with the signature Mallett positive realization that "you got to lean right into the turn and I'm tellin' you man that you're Alright Now."

Mallett produced the album to sound as spontaneous as possible with live vocals and subtle instrumentation. It was recorded in Maine over 8 months and features Mallett band veterans Michael Burd (bass and guitar) and Susan Ramsey (violin and viola), along with Jim Doherty (drums), Robbie Coffin (guitars), Will Mallett (guitar and vocals), and Luke Mallett (vocals).

"I wanted to explore some new sounds and tried to get kind of a pop feel with a couple of these tunes, and it worked to some degree."

Album Review by Steve Morse

David Mallett, *Alright Now*

Folk, North Road Records

ESSENTIAL "North Meets South"

Maine-based David Mallett is one of the most underrated folkies of our time. He's best known for his ecological "Garden Song," recorded by Pete Seeger, John Denver, and Arlo Guthrie. But Mallett has made a slew of great albums, from early discs produced by Peter, Paul & Mary's Noel Paul Stookey to this latest, a masterpiece worthy of the sly old fox that he is. Mallett's voice, which echoes the troubadour side of Gordon Lightfoot and the utter honesty of Guy Clark, is most adept at addressing the passage of time.

"As you grow old, just stay in a place in your mind like a tune from an innocent time,"

he sings on one jangly, Byrds-inspired tune. The band arrangements have an easy lope to them, but also a twangy guitar bite, as in the gutbucket folk-blues sound of “Ten Men.”

He gets topical on the “End of the Day” (questioning the “information-cluttered” digital world) and in the thought provoking “North Meets South,” about the hope stemming from Barack Obama’s inauguration. Mallet, 58, is a keen, sharp-eyed observer, whether he’s addressing the pitfalls of life (“Dark Side of the Moon”) or the joy of a newborn child on “Beautiful.” This is an exquisite, ennobling record, made by a terrific craftsman. (Out now)

The Bottom Line

Review by Jan Duke for about.com/nashville

David's definitively smooth voice consistently carries with it through numerous tales from song to song throughout the album - it's smooth clear concise and of course very well written. But moreover, it's really real music in it's truest form...the truest form ever imaginable.

For over four decades, this Americana Musician has produced a dozen albums and with each release tending to over shadow the previous. This tune master seems to literally thrive within the mist of music, melody, and song. David Mallett has once again taken his craft to a higher level and this time, has included almost an intimate look into his very being with his *Alright Now* album.

My album favorites, if I had to choose just two, would include *End of the Day* which weaves a tale of the really important things in life and *North Meets South* which offers an incredible melody and insight into discrimination and boundaries as well as provoking some serious emotions.

Alright Now is smooth, intimate, and it's so real that I would say that it's almost scary to any mainstream music scene. But for true hard core songwriters, *Alright Now* is a masterpiece and one that you can listen to and learn from for years to come. Yes, David Mallett has proven that once again it really is all about the music.

David Mallett has had songs recorded by over 150 artists, including Pete Seeger, Alison Krauss, John Denver, Emmylou Harris, and the Muppets. He is even the creator of the great American folk classic “Garden Song.”

While David called Nashville his home and was immersed in the Nashville Music Scene for years, he now calls Maine his home but there is no doubt that he has left an unfading imprint on Music City and Classic Americana Music forever.