



# **Jason Wilber**

## ***Echoes***

Release Date: April 22, 2016  
FCC CLEAN

**GOING FOR ADDS APRIL 22**

**“I wish Ray Charles was still alive so I could pitch him Jason's version of 'Paradise'!” - John Prine**

“...a master musician who found a voice to match”  
- Peter Cooper

“He brought the crowd to pin-drop silence with his rendition of Leon Russell's 'A Song for You'”  
- No Depression

**FOCUS TRACKS:**

- |                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. A Song For You (4:48)  | 2. The Game – Radio Edit (3:35) |
| 4. Coals and Water (3:50) | 10. Paradise (4:48)             |

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## Master Musician Finds A Voice To Match

**Jason Wilber** is Prine's guy. At least some folks think of him that way. Wilber stands on elevated stages—from Carnegie Hall to the London Palladium, in every American state and across Canada and Europe and the like—and sings and plays guitar for **John Prine**, one of the English speaking world's most celebrated and revered songwriters. It's kind of like playing for Walt Whitman. It's the sort of gig that can define a musician, and most would be well-pleased with the definition: "A legend's right hand man" has a ring to it. The music Wilber makes with Prine in concert and on recordings is thrilling and sustaining and important. Over the years he's also lent his guitar talents to his friends Todd Snider, Iris Dement, and Greg Brown, among others. And he's a deft songsmith in his own right, whose works have drawn comparisons to folk and Americana titans, even John Prine himself.

But a few years ago it dawned on Wilber that, while he had put in his "ten thousand hours" (in Gladwell terms) achieving mastery on the guitar, he hadn't done the same with singing. "I'd always operated on the unconscious assumption that my singing voice had been more or less set at birth and couldn't be improved much." says Wilber, "I'm not sure why I thought that, although in discussing it with other people since then it seems to be a fairly common assumption."

Wilber decided to challenge that belief, and began applying to his singing the same kind of disciplined study and practice that made him a world class guitar player. It took several years before he started reaching his goals, but he says it was an amazing journey: "Becoming a better singer was much more difficult and time consuming than I expected, but much more rewarding too. Improving my singing abilities has further deepened for me the joy of making music."

Although, by Wilber's own admission his vocal improvement project was a holy hassle at first, in time a master musician found a voice to match. The result is something like when a dominant speedball pitcher finds a devastating sinker, except what's bad for a batsman turns out to be good for a listener.

You can hear all this for yourself on *Echoes*, Wilber's ninth solo album and his first to focus on material written by other songsmiths. The material here—and material is as lousy a word as can be conjured for such artful beauty—arrived in Wilber's care seeming disparate and disjointed. It emerges seamless and certain. Songs from Leon Russell, David Bowie, Joni Mitchell, John Prine, Pink Floyd, Stevie Wonder, the Rolling Stones, Graffiti6, and others—are delivered with gentle invention by Wilber and producer/engineer Paul Mahern, with aid from drummer Devon Ashley on "The Game" and "Annie You Save Me."

And the vocals... it's not like Wilber is singing in some new accent inflection, like Dylan did in his Nashville Skyline era. His fans won't be confused as to who is singing for them. The difference isn't character, it is range and resonance. And it's notable. Sing along, or try to, with Wilber's take on Wonder's "Overjoyed," and you'll readily understand. You'll understand something of the journey and the payoff. You'll understand Wilber's deep empathy for the song, and his inspiration for the singing. You'll understand why Wilber is Prine's guy, and more than that.

**Jason Wilber's album *ECHOES* will be released on April 22, 2016. Available to radio at: [www.AirplayDirect.com/jasonwilber](http://www.AirplayDirect.com/jasonwilber). To access via PlayMPE, Dropbox, or to get a CD, please contact Angela Backstrom at (812) 361-1157 or [angelabackstrompromo@gmail.com](mailto:angelabackstrompromo@gmail.com)**

For photos, artist bio, tour dates, and more visit: <http://jasonwilber.com/media-kit/>