

Peace Stream Records

a division of Bottleneck Music LLC, Saint Paul, MN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JEFF RAY HITS THE ROAD WITH SPECIAL GUESTS TO SUPPORT 'BLUE MARA'

Still reeling from knockout performances at Minneapolis' Deep Blues Festival, the Porcupine Mountains Festival, and sold-out performances in Duluth MN, Peace Stream Records is pleased to announce the release of Jeff Ray's new CD BLUE MARA, a hard-driving acoustic roots and blues CD that has been highly anticipated and long-awaited by fans in the Midwest's roots music community.

BLUE MARA follows on the heels of 2007's LAST GREAT WINTER, a CD that drew critical acclaim and defined 'the clarity and precision of Ray's bottleneck playing' as being 'so well-honed and [having] such an alluringly liquid quality that it puts him in a league with the best on the planet' (Duluth News Tribune).

This time around, BLUE MARA takes Ray's resonator slide-guitar to a dark new playground of early 60's Chicago-blues and 1920's pre-war blues and melds the two with the pervasive rhythms of appalachia and the intriguing nature of east-Indian melodies. The album was recorded on an 8-track reel-to-reel in Jeff Ray's living room and at Owl Recording in Minneapolis by Paul Flynn. The relaxed recording method and lo-fi quality of the CD gives the music the feel of an old Chess Studios recording.

Ray will be joined by a slate of musicians that are featured on BLUE MARA, including: Nick Salisbury on bass guitar (Mick Sterling / Mary Cutrufello), Mikkel Beckmen on washboard (The Brass Kings / Charlie Parr), Harold Tremblay on harmonica (Cool Disposition / Summit Stunt Pilots), Brianna Lane on harmony vocals, and Chris Becknell on fiddle (The Poor Nobody's) to name a few.

BLUE MARA CD RELEASE TOUR

Friday 9/11/2009 @ Sugar Room, 200 E Walnut St, Mankato, MN, 9pm

Saturday 9/19/2009 @ Canadian Honker, 1203 SW 2nd St, Rochester, MN, 8:30pm

Sunday 9/20/2009 @ Turf Club, 1601 University Avenue, Saint Paul, MN, 9pm

Friday 10/9/2009 @ Tavern Lounge, 212 Division St., Northfield, MN, 7pm

Friday 10/23/2009 @ Beaner's Central, 324 N. Central Ave., Duluth, MN, 8pm

Wednesday 11/04/2009 @ 331 Club, 331 NE 13th Ave., Minneapolis, MN, 7pm