

# CARRIE ELKIN | THE PENNY COLLECTOR

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To be released on March 10th 2017, **The Penny Collector** is Austin TX-based singer-songwriter **Carrie Elkin's** long-awaited new solo album. After touring extensively as a featured vocalist with the **Sam Baker Trio** and as a duo performer with her husband **Danny Schmidt**, this is Elkin's highly anticipated return to her solo work.

Written in a year that was bookended by the birth of Elkin's first child and the process of caretaking her father through the dying process, **The Penny Collector** is a poet's momentous stroll full circle around the human lifecycle in one single year. It's a journey that is beautifully told, fragile and heartbreaking at times, joyous and raucous in others.

And Elkin once again delivers the powerhouse vocal performance that people have come to expect, with delicate waves of intimacy that build to astonishing crests and crashes of intensity.

*"I'm thinking Patty Griffin, Nanci Griffith and Iris DeMent . . . spellbinding from the opening track."*

- Bob Harris, BBC Radio

## ABOUT THE PENNY COLLECTOR:

It's hard to pigeonhole **The Penny Collector**, stylistically. It lives in a **similar musical realm as Patty Griffin and Brandi Carlile**, straddling the Americana/Roots, Folk, and Indie Rock worlds where meaningful songs meet the fierce-yet-fragile voices of powerful women. **Producer Neilson Hubbard** (Garrison Star, Glen Phillips, Ben Glover, Ryan Culwell) beautifully captured that power without losing the delicacy and nuance, draping Elkin's vocal performances in swathes of expressionistic electric guitars, velvety strings, and primal percussive heart beats, always leaving the focus on the story and the story teller.

**The Penny Collector is about ushering in new life and honoring old life.** It's about standing in that sacred space where the celebration of life meets at both ends. In June of 2015, Elkin learned of her father's terminal condition with pancreatic cancer, cancelled her tour schedule, and went to Atlanta to be with him through the last month of his life. Caring for someone that close with you, holding their hand through the exposure of that final phase of life, was an incredibly powerful experience, heart wrenching, but also precious and beautiful in its connection. And it was magnified all the more by the fact that Elkin was simultaneously going through the fertility process, and preparing the emotional fields for planting new seeds.

*"I can hear the heartbeat in everything around me."* The song **New Mexico** opens the album and speaks to the heightened perception we have in times of grief, for all the tiny givings of life that more usually go unnoticed and unappreciated. **And Then The Birds Came** wishes her father a final goodbye and a prayer to the world that it might more completely understand what a gift it had been given with that life. *"The birds they wanted him. They knew he'd help them fly."*

**The title, *The Penny Collector*, was chosen in honor of Richard Elkin (1942-2015).** As Elkin says in the liner notes: "My dad was a lifelong penny collector. Not just the 'collectible' pennies, but rather every penny he could get his hands on. In the process of cleaning out his basement we discovered that, in his lifetime, he had collected approximately 600,000 special little pennies, neatly rolled and lovingly kept. My dad had a way of finding value and delight in the tiny things that other people might walk right past."

**The Penny Collector** is Elkin's sixth solo album, and the first she's released independently since her two critically acclaimed **Red House Records** releases. Originally from Cleveland OH, Elkin's career has taken her near and far, from sharing the court with Michael Jordan for the national anthem, to sharing the **Ryman Auditorium stage with Emmylou Harris**, to sharing two tours with the **hit podcast Welcome To Night Vale** as their special musical guest. Now Elkin is settled down in Austin, TX with her husband, fellow songwriter **Danny Schmidt**, and their beautiful newborn daughter, Maizy Rae Schmidt.