

Performing Songwriter

Peter Cooper

Mission Door

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It's little wonder Peter Cooper's songs are so articulate. A renowned journalist and critic, Cooper successfully transitions to making music with this affecting debut on Red Beet Records, the start-up label founded by the band Last Train Home. Detailing his subjects from a literary perspective, Cooper's rugged, rustic slice-of-life tales entwine whimsy and reflection with a first-person point of view. With numerous notables in tow (Todd Snider, Nanci Griffith, etc.), he transports himself into the minds and hearts of his subjects, relaying circumstance with an innate clarity and wisdom that assures down-home credence. The rambling "Boy Genius" and jaunty "Sheboygan" maintain that breezy, front-porch stance, but when Cooper describes the bitter troubadour in "They Hate Me," a schism between folksinger Phil Ochs and Bob Dylan in "Thin Wild Mercury" or the heartbreaking struggle endured by Hank Aaron with "715," the pain becomes all too palpable. —Lee Z immerman, *Performing Songwriter*

FOR FANS OF:

Todd Snider – East Nashville Skyline

John Prine – John Prine

Kris Kristofferson – The Silver Tongued Devil and I