

**CALIFORNIA TUNESMITH ALEXIS HARTE TO RELEASE  
HIS FOURTH ALBUM - *BIG RED SUN* APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>**

***BIG RED SUN* EXPLORES RELATIONSHIPS  
AS FRAGILE BUT ULTIMATELY POWERFUL SOURCES OF SOLACE**

**“Harte's efficiency with words and plainspoken imagery call to mind Richard Buckner; his warm, woody voice and organic melodies are akin to Dave Matthews; and his sophisticated acoustic guitar playing and arrangement are an amalgam of everyone from Bob Mould to Bill Frisell.” – Performing Songwriter**

California tunesmith [Alexis Harte](#) will release his fourth album, *Big Red Sun* April 4, 2009. The vision of an imperiled world--played out in images of environmental and urban decay is a backdrop for the album's exploration of relationships as fragile but ultimately powerful sources of solace. Written during the waning months of the Bush era, *Big Red Sun* is a canvas for the darker colors of Harte's palette.

But with musical roots extending into acoustic folk, bluesy Americana, and even electrified Afro-pop, Harte's songwriting has never been monochromatic. His songs are powered by an examination of everyday moments, in which sharply drawn details loom larger than life. It's a cinematic effect that recently landed Harte a co-publishing deal with Lionsgate Entertainment. Listeners itching for substance in today's crowded field of singer-songwriters will find in *Big Red Sun* not just pretty songs, but a home for some of our most pressing questions on how to live soulfully in the 21st century, and how life's transience makes it matter that much more.

*Big Red Sun* brings together a bright constellation of international talent. Harte created the album's rich arrangements with the help of 16 other musicians, including his longtime drummer **Aaron Brinkerhoff**, bassist **Randy Weaver**, keyboardist **Marc Mowrey** and top-shelf session players like **Jon Evans** (Tori Amos), **Dawn Richardson** (4 non-blondes), **Julie Wolf** (Ani DiFranco, Bruce Cockburn), and **Tom Ayres** (Persephone's Bees). Harte chose Evans, who contributed some of *Tumbling's* most ambitious arrangements (and whose production resume includes jazz artists like Mimi Fox and Grammy nominee Will Bernard), to co-produce *Big Red Sun* at his Berkeley studio, San Pablo Recorders. "Jon's a master of building up a rhythm section," Harte says, pointing to the counter-rhythms of "My Way Out" and the haunted soundscape of "Crows." Co-producer JJ Wiesler (of San Francisco's Decibelle Recording) brought a lush pop sensibility to tracks like "Mayflies," which promises to expand Harte's radio and television audience (his work has appeared on NPR, PBS, ABC, and the WB to name just a few). Unlike much of what passes for fresh on today's airwaves, "Mayflies"--which balances Wiesler's harmonies and ear-candy horn swells with Harte's vivid carpe diem lyrics--reminds us that pop songs can claim universal appeal not just through their sheen, but also their depth.

Harte's discography, has consistently won critical acclaim as well as a loyal following in and beyond Harte's native San Francisco Bay area. Performing Songwriter magazine short listed his 2001 debut album, *Junebug*, among the top 12 independent releases in its June issue that year, and Acoustic Guitar magazine named *Sunlight Loping* (2003) an Editors' Top Choice. Harte's 2006 release, *Tumbling*, became a mainstay on the acoustic program of San Francisco's KFOG radio. For more information please visit [www.alexisharte.com](http://www.alexisharte.com).

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