



ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT RELEASE: Dec. 1, 2011  
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### **Mimbres Region Arts Council 2011-12 Folk Series Continues with Gregory Alan Isakov**

The Mimbres Region Arts Council, with premier sponsor Cissy McAndrew/United County Mimbres Realty, are pleased to bring another great performance in the 2011-2012 Folk Series with Gregory Alan Isakov on January 13, 2012, 7:30 p.m. at the Buckhorn Opera House in the scenic mountain town of Pinos Altos – 10 minutes outside Silver City.

*“Gregory Alan Isakov makes quietly lush, deeply vibrant music more rooted in the starry night sky—like the one on the cover of his latest LP—than any terrestrial locale.” – Paste Magazine*

Born in South Africa and raised in the United States, Gregory Alan Isakov has been touring as a musician since he was 16, and as a solo artist since 1999. He has toured with the likes of Fiona Apple, Alexi Murdoch and Rodrigo y Gabriela and appeared at numerous music festivals. Isakov is renowned by his fans for his intelligent, thoughtful lyrics and rich, often pensive voice. He is a master of musical space, building songs around singular emotions that reach dramatic lyrical climaxes.

As a teen he attended folk festivals and was impressed by songsmiths Greg Brown and Dar Williams, but it was Bruce Springsteen’s *The Ghost of Tom Joad* that proverbially changed his life. “That was a big one for me. There was a mood to the record I was completely blown away by. Listening to these writers closely, one day I had the realization that these people had no idea what a big part of my life they were and how they’d created the soundtrack to it.” It wasn’t long after his epiphany that Isakov began to create his own music.

Moving to Colorado in 1999 to study horticulture, he simultaneously embarked on a career as an acoustic singer-songwriter. He debuted with the gentle *Rust Colored Stones* in 2003 and followed with the haunting *Songs for October* (2005) and the Celtic-influenced *That Sea, The Gambler* (2007). It was while touring that he caught the attention of Americana singer-songwriter Brandi Carlile who liked what she heard and passed on Isakov’s music to Amy Ray of the Indigo Girls. “He’s a really great writer and really raw. His voice is just putting it out there. There’s no affectation or pretension. It’s like punk folk,” says Ray. Isakov also plays guitar, banjo, piano and harmonica, among other instruments.

In 2008, the Denver publication *Westword* named Isakov their Best Acoustic Folk Artist. The previous year he was given the paper’s Best of Denver Singer-Songwriter award; they called him “a rootsier Glen Phillips channeling Kelly Joe Phelps.” Isakov feels an artistic kinship with folks like Phelps (he admires his ability to merge heaviness with humor) as well as Carlile, who offered to sing and record parts of *This Empty Northern Hemisphere* at her studio. The pair also cut Leonard Cohen’s “One of Us Cannot Be Wrong,” as a duet. “I think it’s one of the most beautiful songs in the world,” says Isakov. “It was a struggle for me to see how I could make it better—so I tried to make it as different as I could.”

Additional sponsors include the Holiday Inn Express Silver City and Silver City Radio.

For tickets to this Folk Series performance, contact the MRAC offices at 1201 Pope Street in Silver City, call 575-538-2505, or visit us online at [www.mimbresarts.org](http://www.mimbresarts.org) or buy tickets at L&I Arts, Alotta Gelato, or A.I.R. Coffee (Bayard).

**The Mimbres Arts Council is a leader in building communities inspired, enriched,  
and strengthened by the power of the Arts.**

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