

Mark Pucci Media

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2, 2014

Contact: Mark Pucci (770) 804-9555 / mpmedia@bellsouth.net



The Nighthawks Are Back with a New CD, *444*, on a New Label, EllerSoul Records, Coming June 17

In their Fifth Decade, America's Seminal American Roots Music Band Remains Vibrant & a Must-See Live Performance Group

WASHINGTON, DC – America's favorite roots music band, The Nighthawks, announce a June 17 release date for their latest album, *444*, on EllerSoul Records, their label debut. Produced by the band and recorded at Montrose Studio in Richmond, Virginia, *444* is jam-packed with 13 tracks of blues, soul, rock 'n' roll and roadhouse country music – all given the trademark Nighthawks combination of talent, passion, energy and showmanship that has made the Blues Music Award winners a truly one-of-a-kind live listening experience, conveniently packaged on disc and ready to take home to enjoy.

Now in their fifth decade of recording and live performing, the 21st century Nighthawks are a tight, cohesive unit – the kind that comes only from years and miles. Guitarist Paul Bell and bassist Johnny Castle have been in the band for more than a decade; drummer Mark Stutso, the “new kid,” is starting his fifth year; and singer/harmonica player Mark Wenner is counting 40-plus. The nightly consensus from fans is that this version of The Nighthawks is the best ever. The concept that was mapped out in the liner notes of their 1974 debut recording, *Rock and Roll*, has grown into a powerful expression of the American musical tradition.

444 draws from the deep roots the band has always mined: an organic mix of originals and classic cover tunes. Some are well known, like Muddy Waters' “Louisiana Blues,” and some more obscure, like the Du Droppers' “Walk That Walk.” But they all blend to make a rich American stew. “Honky Tonk Queen,” a Wenner original that sounds as if it could have come from an old Rolling Stones' session outtake; “No Secrets,” (another Wenner song) and “Price of Love” (written by The Everly Brothers) are previously recorded Nighthawks songs presented here with new depth and breadth. “The King” is well-represented on the new disc, as well. Two early Elvis Presley movie numbers -- “Got a Lot of Livin'” the final song in his 1957 film, *Lovin' You* (which Elvis sings out in the audience that includes his mother Gladys) and “Crawfish,” which opens his 1958 movie, *King Creole* -- date from the magic period in the 1950s when Mark Wenner was most under the spell of the radical new star.

Johnny Castle contributes three originals to *444*, including the hard-charging “444 A.M.” that gives the new CD its title. “High Snakes,” a swampy, haunting cry of lost love, was written and recorded by Johnny and his former DC-cohort, guitarist Bill Kirchen. Johnny’s lovely “Roadside Cross,” is unusual for The Nighthawks and gives the otherwise rockin' CD a gentle and beautiful finish. It also features the only guest appearance on the album, the delicate mandolin part by Akira Otsuka, a pal of Johnny’s from his bluegrass days.

Mark Stutso borrowed a bluegrass original from his brother-in-law and turned it into a Texas funk groove in “You're Gone.” For “Nothin' but the Blues,” he drew on his friendship with Grammy-winner Gary Nicholson. The band had learned “Livin' the Blues” backing up on a tour with Tracy Nelson, who co-wrote it with Gary. Mark Wenner takes the lead vocal on the “Hawks” version, with just one little word change.

As always, the essential flavors and textures of this rich American stew come from the electric and acoustic guitar work of the incomparable Paul Bell, who continues to thrive in his role as lead guitarist, forever expanding his horizons on the instrument with the best of tone and taste.

Almost every Nighthawks recording has featured at least one Muddy Waters tune, and *444* is no exception. This time the band showcases its acoustic version of Muddy's “Louisiana Blues” (staying close to the country blues tone of Muddy’s original version), recalling their Blues Music Award-winning acoustic release, *Last Train to Bluesville*, and Muddy's live introduction on the band’s *Open All Night* album. As the legend said that night way back when, “They have a beautiful name. They are THE NIGHTHAWKS.”

The Nighthawks are booked by Blue Mountain artists (www.bmatours.com). To watch the trailer for their upcoming 2015 documentary film, “The Nighthawks: That Band on the Blue Highway,” directed by Michael Streissguth, click on this link: <https://vimeo.com/88276223>

For more information on the band, visit www.thenighthawks.com.

THE NIGHTHAWKS TOUR ITINERARY

5/7	The Zoo Bar	Lincoln, NE
5/8	21 st Saloon	Omaha, NE
5/9	Uncle Bo’s T-Town Bar – Ramada Inn Downtown	Topeka, KS
5/16	Bright Box Theatre	Winchester, VA
5/7	Poolesville Springfest	Poolesville, MD
5/29	34 th Annual Herndon Festival	Herndon, VA
5/30	Ramshead Tavern	Annapolis, MD
6/7	National Whitewater Center	Charlotte, NC
6/20	The Birchmere	Alexandria, VA
6/22	Capital Ale House Music Hall (CD Release – 6pm)	Richmond, VA
6/26	Thunder in the Valley	Johnstown, PA
6/27	Blues, Brews & BBQ Festival	Charleston, WV
6/28	The State Theatre	Culpepper, VA
7/4	Evenings on Main	Luray, VA

7/5	High Tides on Potomac	Colonial Beach, VA
7/6	A Blues Night Out – Bethesda Blues & Jazz	Bethesda, MD
7/20	Gilligan’s Pier	Newberg, MD
7/26	Peekskill Rock & Blues Festival	Peekskill, NY

Additional dates forthcoming