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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nearly Beloved prepare to release *Where's Bob?*  
A fun, lyrical and biting trip through the country.

*My Memory's too good, for things I do not care for, My Memory's not good enough for the things I care about...*

With sly humor, an ample serving of classic country songwriting and sparkling guitars, Matt Lax and his band, Nearly Beloved, bring you their newest record, *Where's Bob?* due out mid-February on Attaboy Records. Nearly Beloved is a group of seasoned roots and americana musicians who are at home playing swing, traditional country, the Bakersfield sound, country rock, and bluegrass. Throughout the recording they play with depth and experience as they guide "Darling Bob" and the many star-crossed characters from the album, along their way. Lax describes the varied personalities from his songs, "People living lives full of mistakes, paying the price, and learning from their mistakes...or not!"

The album combines a rich blend of styles unified by Lax's songwriting and singing, and the band's crack musicianship. The opening track, *My Memory* is reminiscent of classic Buck Owens and fervently reminds us, "don't sweat the small stuff." *Cool Fucking Sunset* is an anthem to the California Surfer and has a Byrds cum Rolling Stones feel to it, while *Where's Bob?* with spare instrumentation and a gorgeous gospel background serves as the ultimate testament to rebound relationships. *Tomorrow Won't Be The Future* is a Gram Parsons' inspired tune whose theme explores the fatuous notion that science and industry can rescue us from our current environmental peril. *My P-Role Officer* is a jug-band infused look at our criminal justice system from the perspective of a simple minded ne'er do-well. Bob Dylan's *Subterranean Homesick Blues* is the lone cover song on the disc and his warning "lookout kid" seems to fit right into Lax's circumspect world of downtrodden characters. "It's likely part of my Irish Catholic upbringing," says Lax, "When I'm feeling optimistic I like to say 'the glass is only half-empty', because things can always get worse!"

The album is not all irreverence. The many acoustic offerings include *The Moon and Morning Star* and *Sunflowers Turned Away*, intimate and plaintive songs like those from Lax's 1998 release *Wanderer's Dream*. *Little Woodblock*, the final song of the album, features Lax alone with his guitar reflecting on Woody Guthrie's journey and the influence his older sister's premature death had on that troubadour's beautiful and tragic life. "Woody Guthrie gave so much to this world, while in his own life he suffered so many personal tragedies."

## THE BAND:

Nearly Beloved are Matt Lax-guitars, mandolin and vocals, Erik Pearson- guitar, banjo and vocals, David Rubin- drums, Paul Olguin- bass, and Peter Lax- harmonica. The album is rounded out by special guests Joe Kyle Jr.- Upright bass (The Waybacks) Jon Dryden-piano (Nora Jones' band "The Little Willies"), background vocals- Richard Linley and QB Williams (The Palm Wine Boys), Sonya Hunter, Ted and Kaye Rodden-background vocals, John Mader-Drums (Booker T. Jones), and Dave Zirbel- dobro, pedal steel (Commander Cody, I see Hawks in LA). Matt's lead vocals were recorded and produced by Mark Karan (Jemima Puddleduck, Rat Dog).

Matt Lax (nee Lacques) grew up all over California and Texas in the 1970s, and lived in Austin, TX in the early 80's in the prime of its songwriter heyday. Finally settling in the San Francisco area in the mid-80's, Matt ensconced himself in the African music scene and joined the band, Zulu Spear; with whom he wrote and played for 10 years. Matt penned the band's title song for their 1991 Capitol Records release. Matt began his solo recording career in 1998 with *Wanderer's Dream*, an album of heartfelt torch songs with an all-acoustic lineup. In 2002 Matt Lax and Nearly Beloved released the afro-billy inspired *Hurricane and Tumbleweed*. Matt currently splits his time between playing with The Palm Wine Boys, Nearly Beloved, and teaching at Juvenile Hall in San Francisco.

Paul Olguin grew up playing music in LA. He and Matt met in a garage rehearsing with the African band Sankorfa, some 27 years ago! Paul relocated with his wife to the Bay Area in 1998. He has played on recordings or appeared live with: The Drifters, Mazzy Star, Victor Krumenaker of Camper Van Beethoven, Terry Haggerty, Shanna Morrison, Maria Muldaur, and Jeffrey Halford and the Healers.

Erik Pearson grew up in Pennsylvania, is a graduate of Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music, and has an encyclopedic knowledge of old-time banjo. Erik's composition "File and Fork" was included on the soundtrack of Sean Penn's film *Into The Wild*. Erik and story-teller Diane Ferlatte's album *Wickety Wack, Brer Rabbit's Back* was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2006. Erik has played and recorded with Billy Talbot, The Crooked Jades, Mushroom, Sonya Hunter, and Mudhoney. Erik sang and arranged the 12 vocal parts that together are 'The Wall of Bob!'

Peter Lax (Lacques) took up the harmonica in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, inspired by Sonny Terry. In the 1980's he lived in Austin and played in a variety of blues and country bands. The mid-80's found him in Los Angeles where he formed the Grammy-nominated "new-wave polka" band *Rotondi* with brother Paul Lacques. Peter now resides in Marin County where he performs with a variety of Bay Area bands.

Dave Rubin hails from Chicago and has played everything from speed metal to be-bop. He played with New Morty Show and with Connie Champagne during the swing revival in the mid-90's. He played behind Ray White (vocalist and guitarist with Frank Zappa).

For more information: <http://www.nearlybeloved.com>