

JALOPY RECORDS TO RELEASE FIRST STUDIO ALBUM BY NORA BROWN ON OCTOBER 25th 2019

Jalopy Records, the record label of Red Hook's Jalopy Theatre, is proud to announce the release of *Cinnamon Tree*, the debut album from Nora Brown, on October 25th, 2019.

Nora Brown, recorded here at 13 years of age, plays with beauty and depth in the performances captured on her debut album, *Cinnamon Tree*. Produced by legendary musician Alice Gerrard and recorded at Studio 808a, an old farmhouse in Floyd, Virginia. The songs, stories and instrumentals on this record draw the listener in: They are poignant and transformative, challenging listeners to allow this old and traditional music into their present day life, alongside the music on the radio, TV and front pages of the internet. Nora sings and plays 5-string banjo; both steel string and fretless gut stringed instruments. She is joined on several songs by award winning fiddler Stephanie Coleman.

These songs were learned by Nora through the continued tradition of visiting elder musicians in her hometown of Brooklyn, NY, in eastern KY, south western VA and in North Carolina, as well as from old records and field recordings in archival collections. Nora would like to thank elder musicians who have become friends as well as teachers, including Lee Sexton, John Cohen, George Gibson and especially her first teacher Shlomo Pestcoe.

Nora, now 14 years old, is an unusual teenager and a rare musician. This album represents her journey over the last several years as she has found her voice, developed a distinct and compelling style, and emerged as a wonderful musician. The title of the album itself is emblematic of her musical pilgrimage; today Nora knows that the song lyric is “simmon tree” – a slang shortening of “persimmon,” – but at first she heard the lyric as “cinnamon tree” – a fanciful thought and a chance to learn. This album beautifully represents a snapshot of Nora’s music now, a resting place in her recent journey, a moment to pause and reflect on where she has come from and where she is going. Along the way she has attracted the attention and praise of many touring musicians, including Foghorn String Band, Anna and Elizabeth, John Cohen and the album’s producer Alice Gerrard.

The album is available via digital download and on vinyl in a limited first edition of 500 copies, pressed at Third Man Pressing in Detroit, signed and numbered with custom letterpress jackets. The release of the album will be accompanied by performances at the Jalopy Theatre and Murmrr concert hall in Brooklyn, NY.

“[In her playing,] an intense involvement is revealed as the music appears to wash over her. She sings of experiences way beyond her years, old songs from Appalachian sources, stories that reflect a more difficult way of life.”

– John Cohen