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**BLIX STREET RECORDS JOINS FORCES WITH CROOKED CROWN
TO DISTRIBUTE MAIA SHARP'S "ECHO" CD**

**NEW CD FEATURING "JOHN Q. LONELY" SINGLE TO LAUNCH
BLIX STREET/CROOKED CROWN IMPRINT THIS MONTH**

Blix Street Records, best known for a catalogue of recordings by the late Eva Cassidy, has entered into an exclusive agreement with Maia Sharp and her Crooked Crown Records label to market and distribute the singer-songwriter/multi-instrumentalist's product. **ECHO**, Sharp's latest album, featuring the hit single "John Q. Lonely," will launch the Blix Street/Crooked Crown imprint later this month.

Produced by noted record producer Don Was (Bob Dylan, Bonnie Raitt, Jackson Browne, The Rolling Stones, Lyle Lovett, etc.), **ECHO** is already enjoying impressive online sales on the heels of two July appearances by Sharp on NPR's "All Things Considered." **ECHO** jumped to #11 on Amazon's Bestsellers in Music—Adult Contemporary chart, while the poignant lead single, "John Q Lonely," was #1 Most Added at Triple A radio for two consecutive weeks. The song can be heard on influential stations around the country, among them WRLT (Nashville), KPRI (San Diego), WFUV (New York), KENZ (SaltLake City), WYEP (Pittsburgh), WMMM (Madison), WCLZ (Portland, ME), WCOO (Charleston) and Sirius/XM's The Loft to name just a few.

ECHO is Maia Sharp's fourth full-length solo album, and early reviews have been raves. *USA Today* wrote "Sharp always leads with her heart and comes across as a performer worth getting to know," while *The Boston Herald* called **ECHO** "a nifty power-pop record that could be her breakthrough...studded with hard-to-resist hooks, 'Echo' trades the folk and jazz elements that colored Sharp's earlier records for a rocked-up take on the classic California singer-songwriter sound." Bonnie Raitt, for whom Sharp wrote three songs on Raitt's latest album, **SOULS ALIKE**, contributes background vocals and a cameo lead vocal on the bridge of **ECHO**'s "Death By Perfection," which was just showcased as NPR's "Song of the Day." In

addition, renowned drummer Jim Keltner (George Harrison, John Lennon, Rufus Wainwright, Fiona Apple) plays on 11 of the CD's 12 tracks.

Based in Gig Harbor, Washington, independent Blix Street Records has earned an impressive reputation since it was founded by record industry veteran Bill Straw 15 years ago. Best known for the phenomenal success of the Eva Cassidy catalogue of recordings, the label is proud of a body of material that ranges from contemporary pop to contemporary Celtic, and is home to rising blues-rock guitarist Davy Knowles and his band Back Door Slam.

"I think I am one of the few record business people who had never heard of Maia Sharp," says Blix Street President Bill Straw. "Then I heard 'Death By Perfection' on the radio during a visit to northern Kentucky. The rhythmic tension and the 'shined it, refined it until they could see their own reflection...' lyric got me immediately. I tracked down Maia's manager that same day, and soon learned there was a lot more to Maia and her new **ECHO** album than one, albeit fantastic, track. I wanted to be a part of it, and as it turned out, we were all on the same wavelength."

Sharp, a much-in-demand songwriter, has worked with artists including Carole King, the Dixie Chicks, Trisha Yearwood, Keb' Mo' and Bonnie Raitt (with whom Sharp has also toured) and collaborated with Art Garfunkel and Buddy Mondlock on EVERYTHING WAITS TO BE NOTICED (EMI/Manhattan). All three of Sharp's previous solo albums—**HARDLY GLAMOUR** (1997, Ark 21), **MAIA SHARP** (2002, Concord) and **FINE UPSTANDING CITIZEN** (2005, Koch)—have earned critical praise for the L.A. native.

"A good team is a great place to be, and on Blix Street we are in a great place," says Sharp's manager and Crooked Crown Records principal Meg MacDonald. "They bring with them tremendous successes, knowledge of the ins and outs of the business and, most importantly, an incredible passion and belief in this project."

Maia Sharp's current coast-to-coast U.S. tour will continue through November.

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