3 Paragraph Description of *Edge of a Hurricane* Cd

“Hate and outrage are storming all around us. You feel it everywhere: on social media, at family meal times—even driving down the interstate. And it’s only getting worse,” laments singer/songwriter Katie Oates. “As an artist, it’s hard to know how to respond. Some days I feel angry and hopeless, but on other days I look around and remember all the wonder and good in the world.” In her 5th cd, *Edge of a Hurricane* (spring 2024), Katie confronts the powerful forces buffeting us all: “I tried to plumb the depths of human emotion with this album. Some songs are quite different from what people expect to hear from me—or any folk singer. For example, ‘Tango’ is a rhythmic, exhilarating murder ballad in which the dancers kill each other in the end and ‘Disease’ is a full-on power rock ballad with confrontational lyrics in a growling, sarcastic tone.”

There are also lighthearted bluesy/swing songs (“Took You to Texas”, “The Wrong Place”, “Shoo Be”), a song about resilience during change (“Up in the Air”), and a folk protest song (‘Dark Clouds”). But it’s the first song on the cd (‘Reason Enough’) that sets the tone for the album. Katie confesses: “After I released *Play Me* (2017)*,* I just stopped writing. It felt like such a precarious time to be creating. My friend and mentor, singer/songwriter Sally Barris, rescued me. We had been doing Zoom sessions and one day she said: ‘You’re going to start writing songs again.’ She played Kate Wolf’s ‘Across the Great Divide’ and said to me: ‘now write a song using a metaphor from nature that captures how you are feeling’. I hung up the phone and wrote the first verse of ‘Reason Enough’ as if I was taking dictation. Watching a bird outside my window sing its heart out became my ‘reason enough’ to sing my own songs again. It’s a fitting metaphor for me because whenever I get really low, nature reminds me how small my or the worlds’ troubles are compared to its vastness. Nature also reminds me that small things matter; they affect the universe too. And it encourages me to keep going.”

“The most hopeful ballads on the album (‘Heart of My Heart’, ‘Love Will Find a Way’, ‘Edge of a Hurricane’) and the jazzy (‘Shoo Be’) all emerge from my hard-fought battle with despair. Because in the end I think it’s as simple as a choice we each have to make between darkness and light. Hate seems so powerful, but all hate can do is destroy; only love can create something new. So I choose love. I hope you will, too. And maybe our small little acts will make a difference.”