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**RUF RECORDS SETS FEBRUARY 14 RELEASE
DATE FOR OMAR & THE HOWLERS
ESSENTIAL COLLECTION 2-CD SET**

**ONE DISC INCLUDES "OMAR'S PICKS" OF
SONGS SPECIAL TO HIM**

**Band to celebrate release with in-store at Waterloo
Records in Austin on February 15 at 6PM**

AUSTIN, TX – Ruf Records announces a February 14 release date for the *Essential Collection*, a special 2-CD set from seminal roots band Omar & the Howlers. Ruf Records is distributed in the U.S. by the Allegro Corporation. The twin-disc pack is comprised of one CD titled “The Best of,” while the second one is called “Omar’s Picks,” which are songs that “represent a snapshot of influences and heroes throughout my career and are special to me for one reason or another,” says Omar.

Omar & the Howlers will celebrate the release of the new album with a special in-store performance at Waterloo Records in Austin on February 15 at 6PM Central Time.

The 30 studio and live recordings on the *Essential Collection* were culled from albums originally released beginning in the early 1990s and includes selections from such albums as *Courts of Lu Lu* (named after a blues laundromat in his hometown of McComb, Mississippi), *Muddy Springs Road*, *World Wide Open*, *Swing Land* and his Blues Music Award nominated collaboration with Jimmie Vaughan, *Jimmy Reed Highway*. Also featured are such fan favorite Omar & the Howlers’ classics as “Magic Man,” “Border Girl,” “Hard Times In the Land of Plenty,” “Wall of Pride,” “Mississippi Hoo Doo Man” and “Boogie Man,” among many others.

“My career has been a long and rich journey from the time I began playing at 12 years old until the present day,” says “Omar” Kent Dykes in the album’s liner notes. “It has been a blast from 1962 until now. *The Essential Omar & the Howlers* includes songs that are considered my biggest hits combined with songs I believe to be some of my best work. The collection compiles my entire life’s work in the music industry: writing, recording, touring and making the blues rock for over five decades.”

For more information, visit www.omarandthehowlers.com and www.rufrecords.de.

Omar & the Howlers – *Essential Collection* Track Listing

DISC 1 – *Best Of*

- 01. Magic Man**
- 02. East Side Blues**
- 03. Border Girl**
- 04. Hard Times In the Land of Plenty**
- 05. Bad Seed**
- 06. Wall of Pride**
- 07. Mississippi Hoo Doo Man**
- 08. Big Chief Pontiac**
- 09. Tears Like Rain**
- 10. Monkey Land**
- 11. Snake Oil Doctor**
- 12. Muddy Springs Road**
- 13. Boogie Man**
- 14. You Made Me Laugh**
- 15. Jimmy Reed Highway**

DISC 2 – *Omar's Picks*

- 16. I Want You**
- 17. Snake Rhythm Rock**
- 18. Burn It To the Ground**
- 19. Got My Heart Set On You**
- 20. Work Song**
- 21. Alligator Wine**
- 22. Do It for Daddy**
- 23. I'm Wild About You**
- 24. That's Your Daddy Yaddy Yo**
- 25. Stone Cold Blues**
- 26. Girl's Got Rhythm**
- 27. Life Without You**
- 28. World of Trouble**
- 29. Sugar Ditch**
- 30. Built for Comfort**