

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### The Menards Release New Album *All by Heart* on January 3, 2026

Chicago, IL — Americana band **The Menards** will release their new full-length album, *All by Heart*, on Saturday, January 3. The ten-track collection is a soulful, story-rich journey through love and loss, barrooms and backroads, restless escapes and hard-earned hope — music built on lived experience and heartfelt songwriting.

Recorded live during a long, sweltering June weekend in 2025 at band members Tim Menard and Cathie Van Wert's Chicago home, *All by Heart* captures the raw, intimate energy of musicians playing together in the moment. The sessions were recorded and engineered live by bassist Michael Krayniak, then mixed and mastered by John Abbey at The Garage in Chicago, preserving the warmth and immediacy of the performances.

Musically, *All by Heart* blends Americana, folk, blues, and roots influences with narrative-driven songwriting. Songs like the uplifting “Whistle, Be On My Way,” the steady devotion of the title track “All By Heart,” and the gritty blues reflection of “My Life” showcase the band's ability to balance emotional depth with melodic accessibility. The album also features a soulful take on Danny O’Keefe’s classic “Good Time Charlie’s Got the Blues.”

The Menards are:

- Tim Menard — vocals, rhythm guitar, harmonica
- Paul Bivans — drums
- Michael Krayniak — bass, vocals
- Jim O’Donnell — electric guitar
- Gabriel Stutz — pedal steel guitar
- Cathie Van Wert — fiddle, vocals

*All by Heart* was produced by Tim Menard and Cathie Van Wert. Album artwork and design were created by Van Wert through DoubleTake Design, with photography by Van Wert and Bruce Unruh.

*All by Heart* will be available on all major streaming platforms and via Bandcamp beginning January 3. An electronic press kit with digital downloads of the tracks and lyrics, streaming links, full credits, track descriptions, photos, videos, and background on the band is available upon request.

#### For press, radio, or interview inquiries:

Cathie Van Wert

[cathievanwert@me.com](mailto:cathievanwert@me.com)

773-841-8609

[The Menards](#)