

Music: October 16, 2009

## Texas Platters

By Jim Caligiuri

### Guy Clark

#### *Somedays the Song Writes You* (Dualtone)

*Craftsman*, the title of a 1995 compilation of Guy Clark's early work, comes to mind when listening to *Somedays the Song Writes You*. Like everything he's put out over the course of a nearly 40-year career, not a note or word is out of place, crafted with immense care and intent. Each original tune is a co-write, some with names you'll recognize (Rodney Crowell, Gary Nicholson, Verlon Thompson), others with new blood like Jedd Hughes and Ashley Monroe. Clark's nuanced voice stands front and center, however, a little craggy with age but still impeccably matched to the spirits he summons. His storyteller side is fully effective on "The Guitar," with its magical ending, and a bad morning comes alive on "The Coat." A spry reading of "If I Needed You" gives a nod to old friend Townes Van Zandt, and bass player Bryn Davies, formerly of Two High String Band, adds amiable backing vocals throughout. *Somedays* leads off with the tune that gives the album its title, "Somedays You Write the Song," a simple yet penetrating exploration of the mystery of songwriting. **(Guy Clark swings through the Texas Union Theatre, Friday & Saturday, Nov. 20 & 21.)**

★★★