

CD Review

'Miscellany' by Pete Nutkins

Reviewed by Sandra Lawes

This five track EP features the distinctive voice of Pete Nutkins, who will be known to many of you as a stalwart of the wonderful Watford Folk Club in Hertfordshire. Pete has been involved in folk music since the 1960's. His repertoire draws from both traditional and contemporary folk song including material from Great Britain and North America.

This CD has a down-to-earth, intimate feel, almost as though he is performing live directly to the listener. It was recorded, mixed and mastered at Carpenders Park Studios near Watford by Stephen Lenman. On four of the songs, two traditional and two contemporary, Pete accompanies himself with gentle guitar playing. The other song, the heart-rending '*Home Lads, Home*', based on a poem by Cicely Fox-Smith, is very hard to sing (in every sense) and you can hear the raw emotion in Pete's voice as he performs it acapella.

This is a collection of songs that tear at your heart strings, reflecting the darker side of life - loss, struggle, war, industrial disputes are some of the poignant themes. All the songs are about the trials and tribulations of real people at various times in history - a farmer in Australia struggling to make a living from the dry barren soil, experiencing tragedy and loss, horses sharing the suffering and giving their lives alongside the men in the First World War, blackleg miners working during a strike - these songs give us plenty to think about - just as all good folk music should. You might want to keep the tissues handy!

You can see Pete perform regularly at Watford Folk Club <https://watfordfolkclub.co.uk/> and you can contact him at peter.nutkins@btinternet.com to buy the CD.

