

'This Is Something Constant' by Jack Rutter

Reviewed by Carl Filby (Oct 2023)



Jack Rutter first became known on the folk scene as part of the trio of Moore Moss Rutter who won the 2011 BBC Young Folk Award and since then has established himself as a solo artist with a collection of credits as a guitarist with Seth Lakeman, Jackie Oates and the Sam Sweeney Band.

Six years after the release of his acclaimed debut album 'Hills' in 2017 and four years after the release of the follow up album 'Gold of Scar and Shale', this album will complete the trilogy when released on October 27th.

A very talented multi-instrumentalist himself, playing a variety of instruments on this album, Jack is joined by two other outstanding musicians in Mike McGoldrick (of Capercaillie, Afro-Celt Sound System & Kate Rusby band fame) on pipes whistles and flute and Patsy Reid, fiddle, viola and cello player extraordinaire who, it seems, everyone wants to work with.

As perhaps was intended the album has a very 'live' feel to it. I wasn't familiar with Jack's solo music before listening to this album and at the end I came away with very much the same feeling that follows a really good night at the local folk club when at the outset the acts were an unknown quantity. It wasn't then a surprise to read that Jack himself describes the album as "...a love letter to folk music..".

I particularly enjoyed ***Bold Nevison The Highwayman*** and the driving harmonica, apparently a 'first' for Jack's solo records, worked very well on that. ***Many's The Night*** is illuminated by the interplay between the fiddle and pipes towards the end of that track, amongst others, and the pace drops appropriately on ***James Atley and Sir Fennix*** to provide more space for the vocal on the tale of the villainous activities of the latter. The album as a whole unearths some interesting stories and music not often heard and there are sleeve notes explaining the origin or the motivation for each of the tracks.

This is a worthy addition to the folk catalogue and you can purchase a copy of the album and check out gig details (some during November) and more information about Jack on his website <https://jackruttermusic.com/home>. You can also listen to the first of the above tracks in '**Filby's Folk**' at 7pm on Royston Radio on Sunday 12th November then subsequently in the Show 26 [podcast](#) usually available from the day following broadcast.