



Premiere: Derek Piotr – The Old Lady and the Devil

written by [Alex Gallacher](#) 28 April, 2022

Derek Piotr has become something of a regular on these pages in recent months. In January, we interviewed the musician and folklorist ([read it here](#)) following the release of **Last Wisps of the Old Ways: North Carolina Mountain Singing**. Then last month, we premiered his single “How Can I Keep from Crying?” taken from his forthcoming album *The Devil Knows How*.

Today we have the pleasure of sharing another track from *The Devil Knows How*, due for release on 13th May and which can be pre-ordered via Bandcamp [here](#).

As I said then, one of the things I loved about Derek’s folk collecting work was his love for the more unvarnished and “real” – songs sung as part of everyday life rather than delivered under the banner of a singing profession. While those field recordings influence his own work, which carries that similar earthy feel, an equally loose experimental quality leaves these songs unbound and uprooted. This can give a dreamlike quality to the tracks which weaves experimental excursions into field recordings. The results are both absorbing, experimental and unique. I was genuinely excited by what I heard when Derek sent the album and it’s unlike anything else I’ve heard. These folk songs are untethered and free.

Listen to *Old Lady and the Devil* below.