



Spring 2018 | £3.00

# FOLK'S FUTURE STARS!

**Meet the bright young  
musicians of the National  
Youth Folk Ensemble**

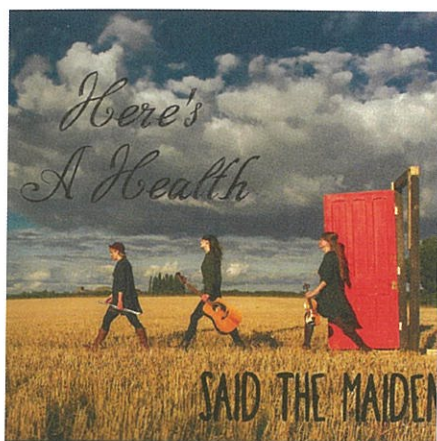


**efdss**

english folk dance  
and song society

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**What Katy did next**  
**Bodmin Folk Club celebrates its half-century**  
**Stepping out 'down south'**





## Said The Maiden

Here's A Health

Maiden Records

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Lovely, warm harmonies and voices that knit faultlessly – Said The Maiden take the folk duvet, give it a shake and produce music that sounds both of the past and up to the minute.

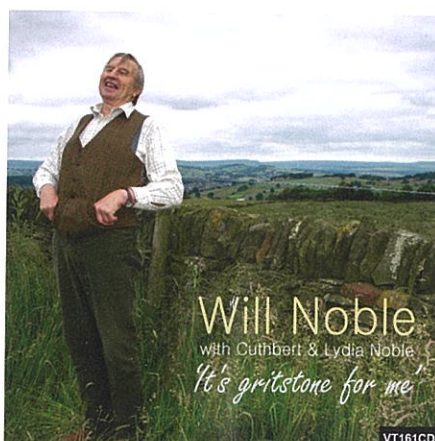
Jess Distill, Hannah Elizabeth and Kathy Pilkinton sing with great unity of purpose. On *Black Annis*, the harmonies support the tune and provide haunting fill-ins to amplify the dark material (what is it about folk songs and death?).

Standout track is *Polly Can You Swim?*, a sort of sea shanty by Jess and Kathy that recalls tales of salty prejudice and women being thrown overboard for bringing bad luck to a ship. In *The Pines* is a shiver-some delight, a folk-gospel song and another gruesome tale, beautifully told.

Away from death, there is sex and sauciness in *The Bird In The Bush*, a traditional song arranged by the trio. *Take The Night*, by Kathy, is a surging hymn to a highwaywoman – from these three delightful highwaywomen of folk.

Fabulous all round.

Julian Cole



## Will Noble with Cuthbert and Lydia Noble

'It's gritstone for me'

Veteran

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Will Noble is an internationally acclaimed dry-stone waller and a fine singer of songs in the English tradition, mainly from his native Yorkshire.

Will is best known as a solo singer, having appeared at many traditional song events, folk clubs and festivals. His repertoire includes songs he learnt in the 1970s at the Holme Valley Beagles' hunt suppers, and he sang for a number of years with group The Holme Valley Tradition.

On this CD, which comprises songs hitherto not recorded by Will, he is joined by son Cuthbert and daughter Lydia, who both ably carry forward the family traditions of singing and walling.

In addition to Yorkshire songs, there are some learnt from Arthur Howard and Fred Jordan and, from the other side of the Pennines, are two songs written by Keith Scowcroft, appropriately on the subject of dry-stone walling.

It's a tribute to Will's natural delivery that, whatever its origin, every song on this recording sounds as if it's hewn from the very millstone grit of the Yorkshire Dales.

Nina Salmon



## Simply English

Long Grey Beard and a Head That's Bald

SPEED

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The owner of that titular beard and hairless dome is Andy Rouse, Exeter folk singer and academic, turned exile. Rouse has lived in Hungary since 1979, and here he surrounds himself with Hungarian musicians in a richly rewarding collaboration.

He has the clearest voice and a winning sparkle, especially on the music hall turn of *Suit of Corduroy*. There are 12 songs here and all twinkle under the charming presence of the bearded one and include a winning take on that bawdy morris favourite, *Cuckoo's Nest* – here given a Gypsy spin, taking the tune for a drive that goes faster and faster. The full English, with a sprinkle of Hungarian paprika, as it were.

The album begins in sturdy tunefulness with *The Yeoman of Kent* and winds up with the 1916 classic, *If You Were The Only Girl In The World*, here performed beautifully and affectingly by possibly the only long grey-bearded, bald-headed Hungarian man from Exeter in the world.

Surprisingly lovely.

Julian Cole