

Hannah Shira Naiman



Hannah Shira Naiman's banjo-grounded songs dance the listener into the Appalachian mountains and eras back in time, drawing on her roots in Toronto's 'old time' folk music community to share powerful tales of hope and loss.

With a sound that's been described as a cross between Gillian Welch and Sarah Harmer, Naiman crafts original songs that ring with influences of Ola Belle Reed, The Carter Family, American oldtime, and traditional English ballads.

The upcoming album *Know The Mountain* builds on her acclaimed debut record *Tether My Heart* (2013) and delivers an even more bold, layered, and mature collection of songs. It crosses from sweet waltzes about fishes and birds to dark murder ballads and haunting instrumental reels. The album also contains two original fiddle tunes, inspired by Naiman's recent trip to the mountains of Virginia and West Virginia to study fiddle, an instrument new to her.

Naiman was able to draw upon a talented group of musicians to join her in the studio including her father, Arnie Naiman on guitar and banjo, Gary Craig (Bruce Cockburn, Blackie and the Rodeo Kings) on percussion, Brian Kobayakawa (Creaking Tree String Quartet) on bass, Emily Adam (Blackest Crow) on harmony vocals, and Don Kerr (Ron Sexsmith, Rheostatics) as producer.

Title: Know The Mountain

Release Date: October 7, 2016

Label: Merriweather Records

Track Listing:

1. Know The Mountain (5:19)*
2. The Valley Waltz (3:13)
3. Devil On The Ferris Wheel (2:32)
4. The Blue House (3:55)*
5. Ant And Bee (3:14)
6. Train On The Island (3:34)
7. Callum (4:34)
8. In The Pouring Rain (3:34)
9. Anastasia's Tune (3:00)
10. Come All You Lonesome Ramblers (3:09)
11. Rubikee (4:09)
12. Fishies (3:12)

* recommended tracks

Genre: Folk

For Fans of: Gillian Welch, The Be Good Tanyas

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ABOUT THE TRACKS

1. **Know The Mountain** - The title track, this song considers moments and places that are best seen at a distance.
2. **The Valley Waltz** - A yodelling lullaby, inspired by Hannah's trip to an old Swiss settlement town in West Virginia.
3. **Devil on the Ferris Wheel** - This fiddle tune was inspired by a nightmare wherein a carnival was lit by candelabras, and the roller-coasters hovered closely overhead before flying off into the night.
4. **The Blue House** - A murder ballad based on the common myth of the fiddler possessed by the devil, yet instead of telling his tale, it focuses on the damage that he leaves in his wake. It is a warning song to those who fall victim to powerful men who dazzle admirers with their great skill, power, or popularity.
5. **Ant & Bee** - One of Hannah's earlier songs, inspired by the 1950s children's book series by Angela Banner.
6. **Train On The Island** - A traditional song- the first field recording was by Ralph Peer in Bristol, TN in 1927 with J.P. Nestor and Norman Edmonds. This arrangement was inspired by one of Hannah's own field recordings of an oldtime jam in White Hall, VA in 2012 with Jim Childress and Barbara Payne.
7. **Callum** - Heralded as one of Hannah's most traditional sounding ballads, this song laments an ill-fated affair with a Scotsman.
8. **In The Pouring Rain** - A murder ballad full of rage, dread, and pouring rain.
9. **Anastasia's Tune** - Commissioned by Anastasia Maywood, a choreographer in Edmonton, Alberta.
10. **Come All You Lonesome Ramblers** - A gambling man's last words from the jailhouse. Hannah learned this traditional song from The Gandy Dancers of West Virginia.
11. **Rubikee** - Inspired by traditional nonsense songs, Hannah wrote this song in honour of Little Hat Creek farm in Nelson County, Virginia where the "little creek", the "doggies" and the "cherry pie" were some of her favourite things.
12. **Fishies** - Two fish get separated at sea- as one relishes his independence, the narrator thinks twice.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING (*Tether My Heart*)

"High calibre songs, clean clawhammer banjo playing, and singing that is clear as a bell." ~ Mike Sadava, Penguin Eggs

"The songs, all original, could easily be taken as being traditional, such is her mastery of the genre." ~ John Atkins, fRootsMagazine



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