

Gift





Poor Wayfaring Stranger

trad. arr Aidan Curran /

Eliza Carthy / Norma Waterson

Comes from a number of places, mostly out of Mam's head and originally, of course, mostly from America. The great Almeida Riddle, who when Mam along with the other Watsons met her at the American Bi-Centennial celebrations in Washington in 1976 insisted everyone call her "granny", was a great performer and they all got along like a house on fire. She made them a present of her album and her book, and sadly is no longer with us. Ask Mam how she would sing with her hands one day - it's lovely.

Almeida did a version of it, as does Emmylou Harris and Jack White, but this one comes from Mam and Aidan sitting having a tune one night. Aidan led the arrangement, right down to trying to tell Danny Thompson what to play without being too scared.

Little Grey Hawk

trad. arr Eliza Carthy /

Norma Waterson

Eliza carried a photocopied version of this song around in her fiddle case for a good couple of years, thinking it would be a part of Waterson:Carthy's repertoire, or a part of some repertoire soon - and now that it is, has lost the paper so couldn't tell you what book it was printed from. However, the lovely Derek Schofield tells us that it was collected by the Hammond brothers. The tune in the middle is pinched from the Watsons' repertoire and is called 'Furze Field'.

Boston Burglar

trad. arr Norma Waterson /

Martin Carthy

Boston Burglar comes from two sources: Delia Murphy and Dominic Behan. Mam has some great stories about Dominic, but she isn't sharing out of respect to everyone involved...recently the gift of a CD of Delia Murphy from Bob Davenport brought the memories of the whole thing flooding back. She was loved by Mam's Grandma who loved 'The Spinning Wheel', the closest thing you got to a "hit" in the fifties. The Dominic Behan connection comes from being on tour with the Watsons in the sixties, it was one of his favourite songs.

The Nightingale / For Kate

song trad. arr Eliza Carthy / Oliver Knight, instrumental by Eliza Carthy

This is from two places. The source of the song is Cyril Tawney, once called Cyril Tawdry by a lady in Padstow who complained to my Mam that the town "had not been the same since it was invaded by Cyril Tawdry and all those hippies"... mother did keep a respectful if somewhat guilty silence at that point, having in fact been one of those hippies. Sorry Padstow. Unless of course by "hippies" the lady meant Rick Stein and his mates. The inspiration for the song was from our very good friend Hal Willner, who suggested that I sing it as part of the Rogues' Gallery series of concerts. More fun has been had at those things than should be allowed, and we are delighted to be a continuing part of them. Thank you Hal and everyone for good memories that have become very good stories.

Bonaparte's Lament

trad. arr Eliza Carthy / Norma Waterson

From the EFDSS Appalachian compilation *Dear Companion*.

The Rose and the Lily (the Cruel Brother)

song trad. arr Eliza Carthy /

Norma Waterson / Oliver Knight,

melody Eliza Carthy

The idea is that the two siblings represent the two flowers of the family: both beautiful, one deadly. What has passed between them we don't know, he could just be a selfish baddun. Or it could be an example of an old-style honour killing as the brother was not informed of her intended wedding. The bulk of this comes from *The Traditional Tunes of the Child Ballads*, by Bertrand Harris Bronson. We added to the tradition a little bit here and there.

Bunch of Thyme (the Seeds of Love)

trad. arr Eliza Carthy /

Norma Waterson

This is one of those things that most traditional singers have a version of, and the verses are floating and shared by many different songs. A song like this sifts in through the top of your head over the years. We have no idea where we learned it.

ELIZA CARTHY & NORMA WATERSON

GIFT

04

Ukulele Lady /

(If Paradise is) Half as Nice

*Kahn / Whiting : EMI Music Publishing / Battisti / Mogol : CAM Creazioni
Artistiche M Li S R L*

Roger Williams helped us with his wonderful horn arrangement. For some reason Eliza heard Paradise on the radio, thought it would be a great swing number, and thought it would go. We went with it. Sometimes we were not sure why we did... however thanks to Aidan for his swinging, face-melting solo. Eliza once saw Andy Fairweather Low on the Van Morrison Enlightenment tour. He was onstage for a lot longer than Van Morrison was.

Psalm of Life

words Longfellow, music Eliza Carthy

It was Jessica Simpson's idea to put a tune to this rousing poem by the great American writer Longfellow, thank you Jessica.

Prairie Lullaby

Rogers / Brown published by Peer Music

Mam used to sing this to Eliza when she was a baby. We recorded two versions of this in the studio, and were reliably informed by Aidan and Olly in the control room that Florence was asleep by halfway through the first take. So it works!

Shallow Brown

trad. arr Norma Waterson / Eliza Carthy / Oliver Knight

A work song that has been turned into a beautiful lament for family and home. We didn't learn this from Sting. But we did have to get our family in for a good sing at some point, so here we are, clearing our throats. Another song we sing because of Hal. He certainly does know a good tune when he sees one.

All tracks published by Topic Records Ltd. except where noted.

This album is dedicated to the memory of the lovely Kate McGarrigle.

Eliza would like to thank Oliver for his hard work and his tremolo. Also Aidan, Mam, Baby D, Little Chizzle, Dad. And Liz Lenten, without whom I would still be prey of the shark and whale.

Norma would like to thank her husband and all the family - Tim, Eliza, Rachel and Lucy, Danny and Rod Stradling. Hal Willner, Roger Williams, Martin Simpson, Chris Parkinson, Danny Thompson, Marry Waterson, Saul Rose, Tony Engle, David Suff. Thank you.

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ELIZA CARTHY & NORMA WATERSON

GIFT

05

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|-----------|---|-------------|
| 1 | Poor Wayfaring Stranger | 6:24 |
| 2 | Little Grey Hawk | 3:17 |
| 3 | Boston Burglar | 5:22 |
| 4 | The Nightingale / For Kate | 5:53 |
| 5 | Bonaparte's Lament | 3:15 |
| 6 | The Rose and the Lilly | 6:12 |
| 7 | Bunch Of Thyme | 5:47 |
| 8 | Ukulele Lady / [If Paradise Is] Half As Nice | 4:49 |
| 9 | Psalm Of Life | 6:03 |
| 10 | Prairie Lullaby | 3:46 |
| 11 | Shallow Brown | 2:55 |

Produced by Eliza Carthy
and Oliver Knight
Recorded at Panda Sound,
Robin Hood's Bay by Oliver Knight
Notes by us
Photographs by Tom Howard
Design by Mr Suff

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