



New release

Dean Owens:

The Man From Leith (The Best of Dean Owens)

Released: **20 Mar 2020**

Eel Pie Records

CD, Vinyl (gatefold sleeve), Digital

Retrospective collection from award winning Scottish singer songwriter

Irvine Welsh:

*Dean Owens' music and story also feels like a tribute to the songs inside us, reaching into us to find the threads of our common humanity... As a vocalist Dean is possessed with a voice which soars to the exuberant highs and swoops to melancholic lows that I've witnessed break hearts far, far harder than mine. And it perfectly delivers those beautiful songs of love and loss, **the pulse of all our lives.***

(From the sleeve notes for *The Man From Leith*)

Award winning Scottish singer songwriter **Dean Owens**, from Leith, Edinburgh, is widely hailed as one of UK's finest troubadours, with fans including *Trainspotting* author **Irvine Welsh** – who wrote the sleeve notes for this release - and BBC legend "Whispering" **Bob Harris**. Originally the front man for Scottish alt country/cowpunk band The Felons, Dean has had an almost 20 year, 7 album solo career (4 and 5 star reviews, and comparisons with the likes of Springsteen, Ryan Adams, Roddy Frame and Richard Ashcroft, among many). He has toured around the world, particularly in UK and USA, and opened for, and performed with, the Mavericks, Roseanne Cash, John Hiatt and many more. He was the first Scottish musician to officially showcase at Nashville's renowned AmericanaFest in 2017. The title song from his recent highly acclaimed *Southern Wind* album won the **UK Song of the Year Award 2019** (AMA-UK).

The Man From Leith (The Best of Dean Owens) is a collection of songs from Dean's 7 official solo albums. A natural storyteller, Dean draws inspiration from his life, his family and travels. Some are from his personal history including the title track, the acclaimed *Man From Leith* (about his father's life from the shipyards in Leith to working the roads across Scotland) and *Dora* - about his circus born grandmother and his lion tamer ancestor (Ambrose Salvona) who originally came from north Italy and ended up in a graveyard in Inverness (with a Salvation Army band salute at his funeral). And the classic *Raining in Glasgow*, written in Australia, thinking about home. Others are drawn from stories he has been told or imagined, like *Elvis Was My Brother* and *The Night Johnny Cash Played San Quentin*. His songs capture the universal within the personal stories. There are intimate songs like *Evergreen*, big production numbers like the award winning *Southern Wind* and the whooping, hollering pub rock of *The Last Song*.

Recording in Scotland, but mostly in Nashville and New York, Dean always puts a top quality team together for his albums, working with producers like award winning **Neilson Hubbard**, and musicians including long time collaborator, award winning guitarist/songwriter **Will Kimbrough** (of Emmylou Harris's Red Dirt Boys) and **Al Perkins**. The poignant *Strangers Again* features a duet with Scottish singer **Karine Polwart** (*Pocket of Wind Resistance*, *Scottish Songbook*). The results are little gems of songs which touch hearts and cross genres, strongly influenced by his US heroes, while retaining his own unique Scottish roots and voice.

Dean's genre-hopping ability is clear from his upcoming tours and gigs which feature showcases at **Folk Alliance International** (New Orleans), **AmericanaFest UK** (London) and tour dates including **Orkney Folk Festival**, **Top Secret Blues Festival** Scarborough and **Maverick Festival**. In 2020 he will be recording his next album in Tucson USA, with renowned band **Calexico**, as he explores some exciting new directions.

Eel Pie Records is based in Twickenham. The name may be new, but the individuals behind it have wide experience in the recording scene. Founder **Phil Penman** has a long history in the music business including with BMG and his own label Drumfire. Their first release was the widely acclaimed **Buffalo Blood's** self titled debut album, recorded on location in the heat and dust of the New Mexico desert – a "US/UK supergroup" (Paul Sexton BBC) featuring Dean with Neilson Hubbard, Audrey Spillman and Joshua Britt.

For more press information, interviews, hi res photos, vinyl, MP3s, press tickets etc please contact Morag Neil tel 0771 288 0965 email info@scarybiscuits.com

Downloadable, [hi res digital MP3s, photos etc – PRESS ONLY](#) - via [dropbox](#) (click to connect)

Web sites www.deanowens.com

www.eelpierecords.com

Scary Biscuits Promotions

Tel 0044 (0)771 288 0965

Email info@scarybiscuits.com

Website www.scarybiscuits.com

P
R
E
S
S

R
E
L
E
A
S
E

Jan
2020
Update
Feb
2020

EEL PIE RECORDS

ARTIST: Dean Owens
TITLE: The Man From Leith
(The Best of Dean Owens)
CATALOGUE No: VINYL: EPRLP002
CD: EPRCD002



TRACK LISTING - CD

1. **Man From Leith** (06:38)³
2. **My Town** (04:19)²
3. **Up On The Hill** (03:54)⁶
4. **Strangers Again** (03:06) (ft duet with Karine Polwart)²
5. **New Mexico** (03:13)¹
6. **Virginia Street** (03:47)⁶
7. **Elvis Was My Brother** (03:46)⁷
8. **Baby Fireworks** (03:36)⁴
9. **Evergreen** (04:07)⁶
10. **Dora** (05:33)⁶
11. **Southern Wind** (04:29)⁷
12. **The Night Johnny Cash Played San Quentin** (04:09)⁵
13. **Whisky Hearts** (03:26)³
14. **Closer to Home** (04:40)⁶
15. **Raining in Glasgow** (04:53)³
16. **The Last Song** (04:00)⁷
17. **Lost Time** (03:41)⁴

TRACK LISTING – VINYL

Side A

1. **Man From Leith** (06:38)³
2. **Up On The Hill** (03:54)⁶
3. **Strangers Again** (03:06) (ft duet with Karine Polwart)²
4. **Elvis Was My Brother** (03:46)⁷
5. **Baby Fireworks** (03:36)⁴

Side B

1. **Dora** (5:33)⁶
2. **Southern Wind** (04:29)⁷
3. **The Night Johnny Cash Played San Quentin** (04:09)⁵
4. **Raining in Glasgow** (04:53)³
5. **The Last Song** (04:00)⁷

¹ The Droma Tapes (Songboy Records, 2001)

² My Town (Vertical Records 2004)

³ Whisky Hearts (Navigator Records 2008)

⁴ New York Hummingbird (Songboy Records, 2012)

⁵ Cash Back (Songs I Learned From Johnny) (Drumfire, 2012)

⁶ Into The Sea (Drumfire, 2015)

⁷ Southern Wind (At The Helm Records, 2018)

All songs written by Dean Owens except Southern Wind and The Last Song (both Owens/Kimbrough)

All tracks licensed courtesy of Dean Owens

P & © 2020 The copyright in this sound recording is owned by Dean Owens; licensed to Eel Pie Records in territory.
All rights reserved. Unauthorised copying, reproduction, hiring, lending, public performance and broadcast prohibited.

Irvine Welsh's liner notes in full

Dean Owens is the man from Leith, the title of the moving ballad he wrote as a tribute to his ex-shipyard worker dad. It's the archetypal song for every Leith father and it's one which moves me to tears each time I hear it. Dean is also the Leith man who ironically wrote the best ever song about Glasgow. When I hear *Raining In Glasgow*, I always think of streetlamps reflecting on the dark, wet and windswept weedgie pavements, while walking to some late 80's/early 90's party after the Sub Club, Tunnel or Arches, full of chemicals and romantic notions.

It strikes me that listening again to the big, emotive ballads in this collection, that we're all travelers and this album is about letting go, moving on, coming back, and above all, giving thanks for a life that we, with all our flaws, must strive to live as honorably, gloriously and lovingly as we possibly can.

Dean Owens' music and story also feels like a tribute to the songs inside us, the tales of our lives, reaching into us to find the threads of our common humanity. The most beautiful thing about Dean as a singer-songwriter is how he has the courage to dispense with all affectation and simply open his heart. He never, ever strikes a pose, he just lets it all pour out. Yes, country and folk are his chosen genres - if we have to be so tiresomely labeling about it - but to me Dean Owens is, and always will be, a soul singer.

As a vocalist Dean is possessed with a voice which soars to the exuberant highs and swoops to melancholic lows that I've witnessed break hearts far, far harder than mine. And it perfectly delivers those beautiful songs of love and loss, the pulse of all our lives. When you listen to this collection you won't just be reminded of the life you've lived, the places you've been, the friends you've known and the loves you've had and lost, you will feel them in the centre of your soul. All those streets with their noises and smells, all those faces with their frowns and smiles. All those words you've spoken and all the ones you wish you had. All of them here, all courtesy of my friend Deano, the Man From Leith.

Irvine Welsh

Nov 2019