

Wise Woman

Hold The Wonder EP

Track Listings

1. Hymn To A Genius

Opening track, the never-before-heard, *Hymn to a Genius*, is a delicate, close-harmony offering to a familiar yet elusive figure: the Genius. The complex, ancient idea of Genius was not a visionary individual to be adored for their achievements, but a magical creature living within the walls of the artists' studio, arriving at unexpected times, its powers channelled into art, music or philosophy. This Hymn coaxes the genius with cake and shares the triumphs and frustrations of the creative process, through evocative vocal colours and word painting. The trio's vocal blend is never more needed than here, making its live performance all the more enrapturing.

2. Mara

Joy-laden percussive bop, *Mara*, is inspired by author Sharon Blackie's retelling of the Celtic selkie myth and perfectly captures the epic moment when a selkie (seal-woman) is reunited with her stolen seal skin and her sea-sisters. With each beat, the rousing percussive vocal textures drive the song on, echoing the surge of freedom and the deep pull of the ocean, as if inviting listeners to dive into a world where myth and music collide.

3. Whole Truth Five

Another entirely new original, contemporary folk lament *Whole Truth Five*, questions the fate of five Just Stop Oil activists in 2024, while in turn questioning the future of humanity's relationship to the planet. Through its traditional melodic and harmonic setup, the song grapples with the weight of activism and the urgent call for change, offering a reflection on the world we are leaving behind.

4. Smiley Face

The EP's anthem, *Smiley Face*, details how Colchester drag royalty, Shar Cooterie's "drag story time" was picketed by far right protesters. Sung from the perspective of a young girl clutching a book with her favourite character on it: a smiley face with a bow upon their head, which happens to be Shar's signature look. With the help of the sparkly drag performers, a colourful LGBTQ+ counter-protest and the wisdom of her mum, she realises that love is much more important than fear.

5. Hold The Wonder

Final track, inspiring the EP's title, Hold the Wonder, enters the miraculous mind of medieval mystic and author of the first English language book by a woman, Julian of Norwich, as she contemplates some dangerous ideas. In her hand she holds a hazelnut shell, and within it she can see the entire universe... The only track on the EP with a more 'produced' feel, although still recorded in live 'layers', Wise Woman paint a vocal journey with a single repeating refrain 'I will hold the wonder in the palm of my hand...'