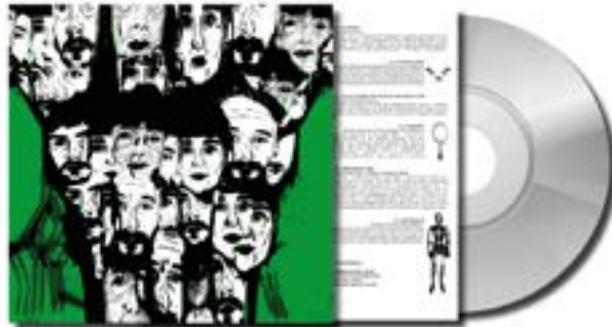


GREEN RIBBONS

DEBBIE ARMOUR - FRANKIE ARMSTRONG

JINNWOOD - ALASDAIR ROBERTS



RELEASE DATE MAY 25, 2019

AVAILABLE IN LIMITED EDITION GREEN VINYL

(300 COPIES)

AND LIMITED EDITION CD IN CARDBOARD SLEEVE

(500 COPIES)



GREEN RIBBONS

GREEN RIBBONS IS A PROJECT DEDICATED TO THE CELEBRATION OF UNACCOMPANIED SONG. THE CURRENT LINE-UP FEATURES DEBBIE ARMOUR (BURD ELLEN), FRANKIE ARMSTRONG, ALASDAIR ROBERTS AND BENJAMIN “JINNWOOD” WEBB (JINNWOOD, BIRD IN THE BELLY). THEIR DEBUT RELEASE IS AN INTIMATE COLLECTION OF TRADITIONAL AND NEWLY COMPOSED SONGS. RECORDED LIVE AT STUDIO 95 IN BRIGHTON BY ENGINEER TOM PRYOR, GREEN RIBBONS SEES EACH ARTIST FEATURED SOLO, IN DUET AND IN FULL ENSEMBLE. BEN “JINNWOOD” WEBB BROUGHT THE PROJECT TOGETHER IN JULY OF 2018:

“VERY BROADLY SPEAKING, UNACCOMPANIED SINGING SEEMS TO HAVE GONE OUT OF FASHION IN MORE RECENT YEARS – BUT IT’S ALWAYS SOMETHING I HAVE ENJOYED PERFORMING AND LISTENING TO WHEN I’VE HAD THE CHANCE. I WANTED TO GET A GROUP TOGETHER WHOSE VOICES I FEEL REALLY LEND THEMSELVES TO STORYTELLING, AND FOCUS PURELY ON THE VOICE AND THE STORIES. WE WANTED TO MAKE SOMETHING VERY ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES AND UNPOLISHED, A KIND OF DOCUMENTED SWAPPING OF SONGS...”

OF THE TRACK THAT GIVES ITS NAME TO THE PROJECT AND ALBUM, HE SAYS:

“I FOUND THESE WORDS IN THE BODLEIAN ARCHIVE AND SET THEM TO MY OWN MELODY. GREEN RIBBONS WERE USED TO LABEL PEOPLE AS ‘INSANE’ IN THE 1800S. I ENJOYED THE HISTORICAL REFERENCE TO MENTAL HEALTH, A SUBJECT WHICH FEATURES IN SOME OF MY OWN WRITING. I LIKED, TOO, THE DIRECTNESS OF THE LYRIC.”

CONTACT

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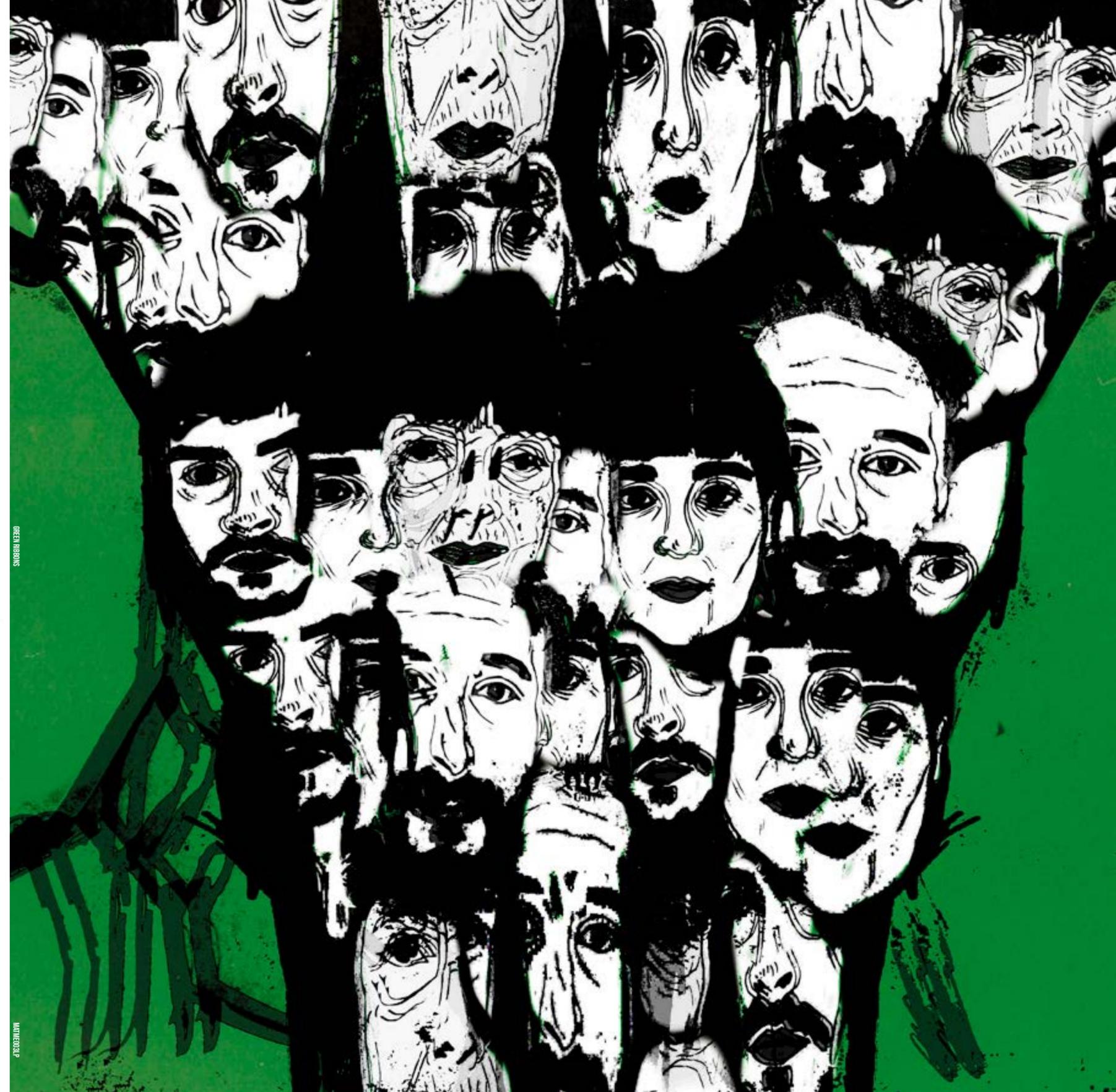
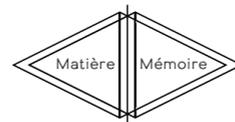
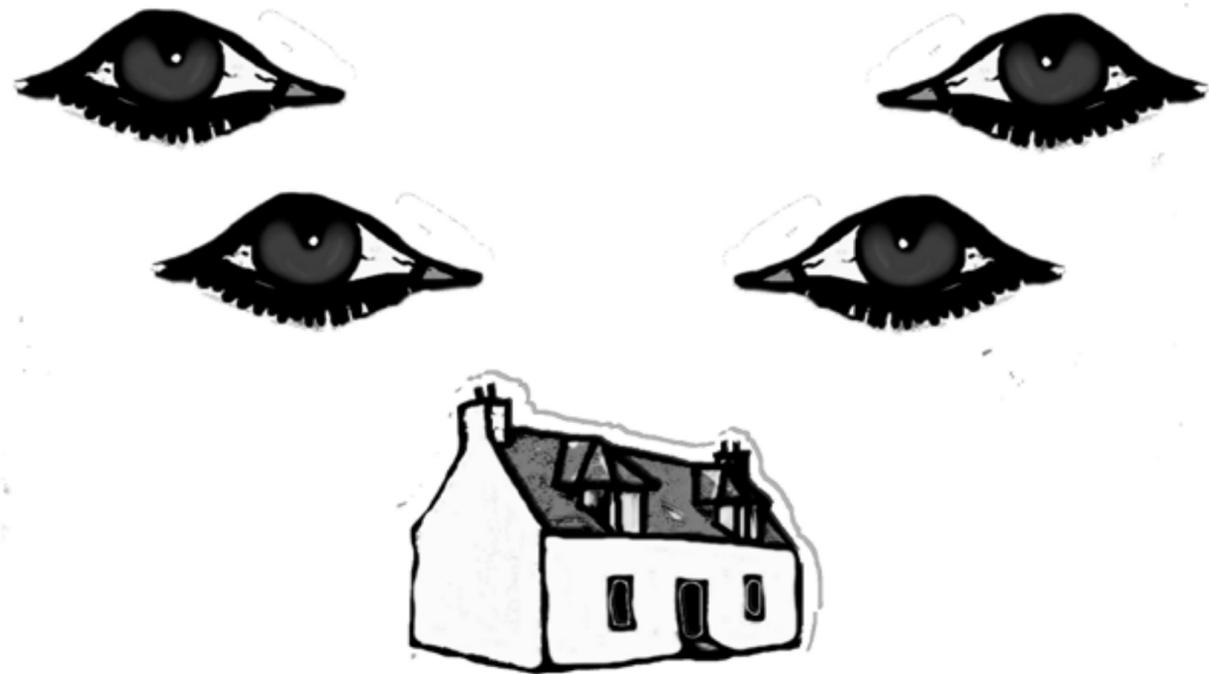
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GREEN RIBBONS

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Recorded July 2018 at Studio 95, St James Street, Brighton. Engineered and mixed by Tom Pryor

Mastered and cut by Frédéric Alstadt at Ångström Studio, Brussels

Drawings by Jinnwoo, Polaroids by Debbie Armour, graphics and layout by Cedric D'hondt

Thanks:

Debbie: Thanks to Ponyo; Kyle and Alex for their endless love and feedback; Gervase for putting me up; all at the Bow Street Runner for making Brighton the best and most beautiful.

Frankie: Thanks to Ben for inviting me to join the project, to Tom for his studio and expertise as the recording engineer, and to Debbie and Alasdair - to them all for their support and to Ponyo for his furry presence. Also to Ann and Alan Dale for their hospitality during the recording.

Jinnwoo: Everything I do is for my dad. Thanks to Gervase French for teaching me about plants, and buildings, and birds, and drinking (and and and); Siobhan Begley for sending me notebooks and pens in the post; Hickory Signals and Bird in the Belly for letting me try out new songs on them and listening to my chronic, rattling anxiety; Pam Thompson; The Bow Street Runner; Pigeons; Cereal; God; Prescriptions; Documentaries about the things people get up to in their retirement; Ponyo the studio cat.

Alasdair: Thanks to Ben, Debbie and Frankie for their company in song; to Tom and Ponyo for their studio cool; to Gervase for his hospitality; to Elle Osborne for pebbly times on the seafront; to Dave Broom for the whisky and all the whisky knowledge; to Cedric D'hondt for his patience and support.

PRODUCED BY CHRISTOPHER DENRUYTER & CEDRIC D'HONDT FOR MATIÈRE MÉMOIRE EDITIONS
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A1. The Well Below the Valley (Roud 2335)

Trad/arr Armour/Green Ribbons

Debbie: Superlative Irish singer and writer Liam Weldon recorded this on his 1976 album *Dark Horse On The Wind*. I found it there when I went looking for a different song of his. He learned it from the Irish Traveller community. I love how opaque the story is, particularly when compared to other iterations of the narrative.

A2. Green Ribbons (Roud V2178)

Words: trad; music: Benjamin 'Jinnwoo' Webb/arr Green Ribbons

Jinnwoo: I found this in the Bodleian Archive and set them to my own melody; I liked the directness of the lyrics, as well as the historical links to mental health (green ribbons were once used to label people as 'insane' in the 19th century). Pentangle used an adaptation of the lyrics, it seems, in their 'Once I Had a Sweetheart'.

A3. My Geordie, Oh

Trad/arr Roberts/Green Ribbons

Alasdair: The text for this song appears on Ord's *Bothy Songs and Ballads*, a collection from the agricultural North East of Scotland first published in 1930. Ord tells us that the hero of the ballad was George, fourth early of Huntly, who was afterwards slain at the battle of Corrichrie on 28th October, 1562. I set the words to an air more usually associated with other songs such as 'Wae's Me For Prince Charlie' and 'The Bonnie House o' Airlie'.

A4. The Week Before Easter (Roud 154)

Trad/arr Armstrong

Frankie: This beautiful and evocative song has been collected widely in Britain and Ireland, the first printed version from the oral tradition being in 1867. However versions were found in broadsides as early as the 17th century, all of which indicate how widely loved the song has been. I'm sure my text is an amalgam of versions I've heard over decades.

A5. Jeannie Jenkins (Roud 731)

Trad/arr Armour

Debbie: This children's skipping song came from a School of Scottish Studies' Tobar an Dualchais recording of Isla St Clair. A Scottish version of a song found more commonly in North America, she learned it from her granny. I'm an avid collector of children's song and rhyme and I'm always curious to see which tunes and ideas continue to thrive in today's playgrounds.

A6. Garden Song

Words and music: Benjamin 'Jinnwoo' Webb/arr Green Ribbons

Jinnwoo: I think I wrote this song in early 2018, sat at the desk of one of many temp jobs. I can't remember what work I should actually have been doing instead of writing songs. It's about looking at a garden and seeing it dead beyond repair, then thinking "well, I suppose I'm not doing so well either". It was written with the help of expert gardener Gervase French, who knows all the plants by name (and tolerates me only wanting to learn about the ones with funny names). I dedicate this song to my friend Adele and her daughter Kitty, who took a liking to a demo version I sent them when it was fresh off the notepad.

A7. The Heathery Hills (Roud 5295)

Trad/arr Roberts

Alasdair: This is from the singing of Brigid Tunney, who was born in Rushen, Co. Donegal in 1886. She lived between there and the city of Glasgow, where she worked, and later in Garvary, Co. Fermanagh from 1927 until her death in 1975. Brigid picked up the song from her sister who, in turn, learnt it when she was living in Glasgow. It began life as a poem 'The Heathery Hill' by Ethna Carbery (1866-1902), published in a collection entitled *The Four Winds of Eirinn*.



B1. Ima Nema

Trad/arr Armour

Debbie: This is a fragment of a Bulgarian song that was taught to me by Kate Young. Our arrangement owes a debt of inspiration to Duo Piperki. The complete version sees two people debating whether their friend has a new boyfriend or not. "She does!" "She doesn't!"

B2. Sea Snake Island

Words and music: Benjamin 'Jinnwoo' Webb/arr Green Ribbons

Another endless day in a temp job - another song I shouldn't have written. This tells the story of an island community turning against one of the inhabitants and closing in on them. I grew up in a small farming village, so it's a reflection on the paranoia that comes with close-knit community.

B3. Here's a Health Unto All True Lovers (Roud 1235)

Trad/arr Roberts/Armour

Alasdair: We learnt this from the singing of Mary Doran, a Traveller singer from Newross, Co. Wexford, as recorded at the age of 21 by Sean O'Boyle and Peter Kennedy in a camp on the outskirts of Belfast.

B4. A Question

Words and music: Armstrong/arr Green Ribbons

Frankie: I began this song back in the early 1990s. I found myself increasingly distressed by the growing inequality and pursuit of materialism but somehow wasn't satisfied with what I'd written. Last year, with such blatant increase in inequality and environmental destruction, I rewrote it for our current times. I'm constantly questioning whether being optimistic is justified!

B5. Softly Spoken Man

Words and music: Benjamin 'Jinnwoo' Webb

Jinnwoo: I wrote this song in 2013 after I had a dream about visiting myself in hospital, and spent the following week researching doppelgängers and bilocation (as a substitute for daytime TV). As a result, the song is about a man being stalked by himself, with the premise that the doppelgänger represents death, or things you're afraid to face. It was recorded with a full band in 2015 for my debut solo record *Strangers Bring Me No Light*, but was cut by the label I was working with at the time; I've felt sorry for this song ever since.

B6. Lady Margaret

Trad/arr Armour/Green Ribbons

Debbie: I learned this from a recording of the wonderful Paddy Tunney (son of the above-mentioned Brigid Tunney), made in the crypt of a London church. He's one of my favourite singers. Born in Glasgow, as it goes, he did some jail time in the 1940s for 'illegal nationalist activities'...

Green Ribbons:

Debbie Armour: vocals
Frankie Armstrong: vocals
Jinnwoo: vocals
Alasdair Roberts: vocals

