

Craig Bickhardt - Outpourings

"Outpourings" by Craig Bickhardt is the work of an artist who has lived enough and dreamed enough to know the weight of a simple lyric line and the power of a melody to summon angels and keep demons at bay. There's a wealth of experience in this music, tapping into years of writing and performing before crowds and in quiet solitary hours. But more than that, there's a sense of un-restrained wonder that Craig has never lost since he first picked up his guitar. As he sings, he "lives for this" and he can't keep what it stirs in him to himself. Defiance... acceptance... wanderlust... reconnection. These themes resonate within "Outpourings". The journey is one of eternal return, with a thousand detours and surprises. Let Craig show you what he's seen.

Radio Release February 1, 2023

1. **Breaking The Bread** - 3:34 (Barry Alfonso & Craig Bickhardt) "Breaking the Bread" is a song of welcome with a message of forgiveness and healing. The timeless folk ballad feel of the tune suggests hard-traveling down old roads towards the bright lights of home.
2. **Ancient Lullabies** - 4:30 (Charlotte Ryerson & Craig Bickhardt) "Ancient Lullabies" moves through diamond-clear poetic imagery on music heard by dreamers and outcasts in unlikely places. It's an anthem for anyone trying to catch the elusive sounds of shadows made real.
3. **England Or Me** - 4:06 (Craig Bickhardt) There's a cinematic quality to "England or Me" rooted in a true-life experience of romance during World War II Britain. The lyric lets you hear the bombs fall as the lovers face a moment of truth.
4. **Emerald Eyes** - 4:05 (F.C. Collins & Craig Bickhardt) Finely wrought with a passionate core, "Emerald Eyes" began as a chorus Craig wrote when he was a starry-eyed 18-year-old. The song has grown into a deeply felt invocation of love that shines with a gem-like inner flame.
5. **She Won't Be Yours Alone** - 3:09 (Craig Bickhardt) "She Won't Be Yours Alone" celebrates a gallery of strong feminine characters with a sweeping, buoyant melody that's both wry and filled with delight. It's a song of experience infused with a young man's desire.
6. **China Blue** - 3:39 (Craig Bickhardt) Haunting and insinuating, "China Blue" came to Craig in a dream (with a little inspiration from reading classic Chinese poetry). There's an austere stateliness to this tune, along with hints of the kind of introspective folk magic the likes of Bert Jansch and John Renbourn used to conjure up.
7. **Ha'penny Standup** - 4:06 (F.C. Collins & Craig Bickhardt) "Ha'penny Standup" harkens back to a folk-rock era when elusive but evocative lyrics rewarded close listening. The mysterious relations and seductive hints flitting through the lyric are carried by a billowing, expansive melodic line.
8. **Fire Of The Spirit** - 4:15 (Craig Bickhardt) A palpable outrage at the stigmas facing loved ones with special needs propels "Fire of the Spirit" – but the anger turns into something anthemic and uplifting as Craig strikes a universal chord of human dignity.
9. **Steal Home (Letter To Curt Flood)** - 4:01 (Nathan S. Bell & Craig Bickhardt) "Steal Home (Letter to Curt Flood)" is a slice of Americana with a knowing twist, delving into the intersection of baseball and human rights that remains relevant today. The easy back porch melody lets the message of quiet courage and freedom settle in easy.
10. **Hills Of Geronimo** - 5:17 (Robert George & Craig Bickhardt) There's a vivid panorama of historical vision to "Hills of Geronimo" lent additional resonance by Bill Miller's Native American instrumental work. Craig's take on a Western ballad paints a desert landscape and fills it with the ghosts of heroes past as well as a hope for revival.
11. **I Don't Know About Love At All** - 4:06 (Craig Bickhardt) "I Don't Know About Love at All" rings with echoes of Mickey Newberry, Billy Joe Shaver and other masters of outlaw country with a wounded sort of wisdom that invites long ponderings over old scotch by a roaring hearth fire.
12. **If Holes Were Coins** - 3:37 (Craig Bickhardt) The spark for "If Holes Were Coins" was struck during a visit by Craig to a once-prosperous Upstate New York town. There's a bite and simmering fury to this tune that bids to make it a modern working-class protest anthem.
13. **I Live For This** - 4:05 (Craig Bickhardt) "I Live for This" brings the album's musical vagabondage back to the unshakable love of song that has kept Craig going through fair and fearful times. Rolling guitar lines and rippling jazzy piano capture a sense of creative movement as a true believer testifies to his constant muse.

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