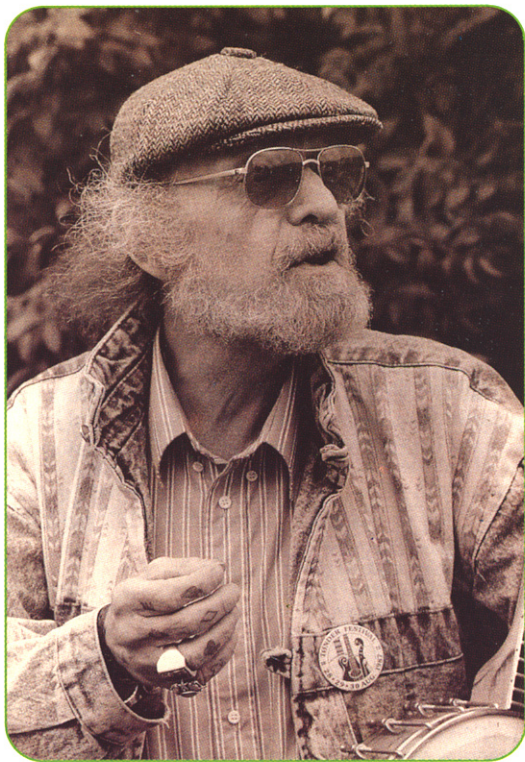


DERROLL ADAMS

65th. BIRTHDAY CONCERT



BIOGRAPHY

Born in Portland Oregon in 1925, Derroll Adams began his playing and singing for the political rallies and union meetings of the Henry Wallace Third Party presidential campaign of the 40s.

In 1950 he left Oregon for California where he continued his singing and playing around the Hollywood area.

In 1956 Derroll accepted an invitation from Rambling Jack Elliott and his ex-wife June to join them in Europe to play with Jack. Derroll accepted their offer and has remained there ever since. He now lives in Belgium with his wife Danny and daughter Rebecca.

His background has been varied and colourful to say the least. Beside his singing and banjo playing, he's been a truck driver, spray painter, preacher, logger, cowboy, dishwasher, taxi driver, decorator, trapper, just to name a few.

Now at the age of sixty-five and his travelling days pretty much over, he's turned his energies to painting as well as writing and playing and has just had his first exhibition.

People speak of Derroll as a living myth, a cult figure of the 50s and 60s and is considered to have been an important part of the folk movement in Europe.

Dear Friends,

You could say this record started with the ring on my doorbell one afternoon, last year, when Stefaan François and Walter Ertvelt came to visit me with the idea of giving a party for my sixty-fifth birthday, on November 27th., which was still a few months away at that time.

I was more than surprised, pleased, and I didn't quite know what to say, but thought it sounded like a fun idea, so agreed and that's what they did. They booked the townhall in Kortrijk. The only problem was they couldn't get the hall for the date of my birthday and had to make it for the 5th of October, which was all right by me. I didn't mind reaching sixty-five a little early.

After much telephoning and writing all over America and Europe, they were able to get together some of the old friends to come and share my birthday: Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Bert Jansch, Wizz Jones, Youra Marcus, Jacqui McShee, John Renbourn, Danny Thompson, Hamish Imlach and Muriel, Allan Taylor, Hans Theessink and Milica, Happy Traum and Jane. Roland Van Campenhout and his fiddle player Philippe de Chaffoy, Tucker Zimmerman and Marie-Claire, Bill Keith and Thierry Schoysman, Wannes Van De Velde and his musicians Walter Heijnen, Flor Hermans, Walter Poppeliers and Jan Wellens.

I met HAPPY TRAUM at the Cambridge Folk Festival in 1972, where we were both working and have been long distance friends ever since. It was Happy who helped trace down Jack Elliott who was off somewhere in America singing and playing, living in a camper.

BILL KEITH and I met in Antwerp, in the mid-seventies as I remember, backstage of the theatre

"Zaal Elckerlyk" where he was doing a show. And since then, our paths have crossed more than once at festivals and shows all over Europe. He is one of the most amazing banjopickers I've ever heard. One time at a festival in Switzerland he was giving a workshop and I heard him playing two melodies at the time. Jees! I have a hard time getting one melody at the same time!

JACK ELLIOTT and I did our first show together in 1954 up in Topanga Canyon, Calif. at one of Will Geer's hootenannies. It was thanks to Jack and his ex-wife June who paid my way to Europe in 1956 to play with Jack for six months, that I am even here. Jack's guitar picking style was a big influence on a lot of up and coming young guitar pickers in England at that time and he is still thought of with much respect. The last job Jack and I did together as a team was at the American Pavilion at the World Fair in Brussels, 1958. We were called "The Cowboys". In Italy they called us "The Rambling Boys". I suppose they called us a lot of other things in between!

BERT JANSCH, JOHN RENBOURN and WIZZ JONES I've known since the old skiffle days in London where we all played in the folk-clubs and coffee bars in Soho. Since those times we've stood on many stages together. Wizz and I have also been on several records. I always feel comfortable playing with Wizz. Old Bert and John and me had some pretty good times in those days and some pretty good music too. Later on, Bert and John along with Jacqui and Danny formed the PENTANGLE which was then and still is my favourite folkgroup though I don't think they like to be called group! Maybe I should say my favourite folk folks!

And wonderful DANNY THOMPSON, an absolutely first class universal musician and a first

class guy. I was pleased to see him looking great and seeing him there in Kortrijk really touched my heart. Last time we worked together was on a great tour in Germany.

I first met JACQUI McSHEE some years back now at some big show also up in Germany, can't remember where but I was very pleased to finally meet her. I told her then and still mean it today she has one of the most beautiful voices I've ever heard. When I hear her singing, something in my heart just melts.

YOURA MARCUS I've known since he was five years old in Paris. I've seen him turn into a very very fine banjo picker and equally fine on the guitar. We've been on many a show together and records too. It's always a pleasure working with Youra.

TUCKER ZIMMERMAN and I are almost neighbours. He and his family live down in Liège. Tucker is a poet and composer and has written some very fine songs. One of them "Oregon" I recorded some years ago and still enjoy singing. Tuck and I have done some fun shows together. He is a truly gentle man.

HAMISH IMLACH is my favourite entertainer. He gets up there on that stage and just takes the house and that's not so easy to do sometimes. Hamish is a great singer, storyteller and performer and a wonderful guy. But even better than that, he makes an excellent delicious good curry, and one of Hamish's curries is better than any six guitars I've ever heard!

ALLANTAYLOR too is an old friend of the road with many a good show behind him. He is a fine songwriter and composer. It's been a long time ago we did our first show together and I hope

it will be a long time before we do our last.

HANS THEESSINK and I met on a tour we did together in Germany in the early seventies. I remember him as a rather shy young fella just starting out in the business with a good feeling for blues. I've seen him grow through all these years and it is fun to see him now playing his music better than ever and having success with his own group. He and his wife brought a beautiful banjo birthday cake all the way from Vienna. It looked too good to eat, but we ate it anyway.

And last but not least two of my Belgian friends: ROLAND VAN CAMPENHOUT and WANNES VAN DE VELDE.

I don't remember the first time ROLAND and I worked together. I suppose it must be over twenty years now. Since that time we've travelled together and did records and shows together and always had a good time. He lives and breathes his music.

WANNES VAN DE VELDE and I are almost neighbours. We both live in Antwerp. I haven't worked with Wannes as much as I have with the others but I've always admired what he is doing. So I was very pleased that he was able to come.

The sad part of it for me was that there are other old musician friends I wished could have been there: Colin and Shirley, Ralph McTell, Annie Briggs, Ian McIntosh, The Fureys, just to mention a few. But that couldn't be.

Though in memoriam I'd like to give special mention to a couple of them: Alex Campbell and Alexis Korner who for sure would have been there. They were missed.

I'd like to give special thanks to Willem and Suzy, to Hugo and Frieda, to Stefaan and Yvette, to Walter and Griet and to all their friends and children who helped to make my birthday party one to be never forgotten. Also thanks to Johan, Jean-Pierre and Micheline and to Mireille for their hospitality. Special thanks to the BRT and Dree Peremans for the beautiful sound, and thanks to Thierry for being there with Bill and to my Danish friends for coming all that way to put a smile on an old man's face and in his heart.

I think you can say this is truly a record of "old friends". The ones who put it on were old friends and most of the audience were old friends too. I thank you all. And special special thanks to Danny and Rebecca for helping me reach sixty-five. My birthday wish is that in my next sixty-five years the world and we, her children, will have learned to live in peace and understanding.

Derroll Adams March 1991

Derroll Adams



Derroll Adams with his friend Alex Campbell (†) at the Tönder Festival in 1979.



From left to right

Photo: Piet Chielens

Jacqui McShee, Hamish Imlach, John Renbourn, Wizz Jones, Roland Van Campenhout, Bert Jansch, Youra Marcus, Bill Keith, Danny Thompson, Derroll Adams, Danny Adams, Hans Theessink, Happy Traum, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Allan Taylor, Thierry Schoysman, Tucker Zimmerman, Dree Peremans and Wannas Van De Velde



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KORTRIJK-BELGIUM ON OCTOBER 5TH 1990

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THE DERROLL ADAMS CONCERT WAS CO-PRODUCED BY
DREE PEREMANS FOR RADIO 1

COVER DESIGN BY WILLEM DENECKERE
COVER PHOTO BY MOGENS ESKILDSEN
PHOTO OF DERROLL AND ALEX CAMPBELL BY MOGENS
ESKILDSEN
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DERROLL ADAMS 65TH BIRTHDAY CONCERT

- | | | |
|----|---|-------|
| 1 | OREGON (Tucker Zimmerman)
Derroll Adams: vocals
Youra Marcus: banjo
Tucker Zimmerman: guitar and backing vocals | 3'15" |
| 2 | SEVENTEEN YEARS IN A PHONEBOOTH (Roland van Campenhout)
Roland Van Campenhout: guitar and vocals
Philippe de Chaffoy: violin | 4'47" |
| 3 | ONE MAN BAND (Tucker Zimmerman)
Tucker Zimmerman: guitar, vocals and harmonica
Youra Marcus: guitar | 2'48" |
| 4 | THE SKY (Derroll Adams)
Derroll Adams: banjo and vocals
Youra Marcus: guitar | 4'48" |
| 5 | CHILLY WINDS (Trad. Arr. Youra Marcus)
Youra Marcus: banjo and vocals | 3'49" |
| 6 | THE WILD ROVER NO MORE (H. Imlach - McIntosh)
Hamish Imlach: vocals | 1'58" |
| 7 | CRAZY MAN (Allan Taylor)
Allan Taylor: guitar and vocals | 3'55" |
| 8 | BANJOMAN (Allan Taylor)
Allan Taylor: guitar and vocals
Hans Theessink: slide guitar and backing vocals | 6'06" |
| 9 | IK STA AL JAREN IN DE REGEN (Wannes Van De Velde)
Wannes Van De Velde: zang - Walter Heynen: fluit
Flor Hermans: viool - Walter Poppeliers: bas
Jan Wellens: gitaar | 2'24" |
| 10 | HAPPINESS WAS FREE (Wizz Jones) (Heupferd Music)
Wizz Jones: guitar and vocals | 4'11" |

- | | | |
|----|--|-------|
| 11 | BONNY PORTMORE (Trad. Arr. Bert Jansch)
Bert Jansch: guitar and vocals | 3'59" |
| 12 | THE SONG OF INDECISION (Bert Jansch)
Bert Jansch: guitar and vocals | 3'22" |
| 13 | WILLIE O' WINSBURY (Trad. Arr. John Renbourn)
Jacqui McShee: vocals - John Renbourn: guitar | 5'08" |
| 14 | TELL ME WHAT IS TRUE LOVE (Bert Jansch)
Jacqui McShee: vocals - Bert Jansch: guitar
John Renbourn: guitar - Danny Thompson: bass | 3'19" |
| 15 | THE AMERICAN STRANGER (Trad. Arr. Happy Traum)
Happy Traum: guitar and vocals | 4'32" |
| 16 | JACKHAMMER BLUES (Woody Guthrie)
Happy Traum: guitar and vocals
Bill Keith: banjo - Thierry Schoysman: bass | 2'44" |
| 17 | PRETTY SARO (Trad. Arr. Derroll Adams)
Derroll Adams: banjo and vocals | 3'23" |
| 18 | WILLIE MOORE (Trad.)
Derroll Adams: vocals - Ramblin' Jack Elliott: guitar and vocals | 3'06" |
| 19 | DON'T THINK TWICE IT'S ALL RIGHT (Bob Dylan)
Ramblin' Jack Elliott: guitar and vocals | 3'45" |
| 20 | PORTLAND TOWN (Derroll Adams)
Derroll Adams: vocals
Youra Marcus: banjo
Roland Van Campenhout: harmonica
Danny Thompson: bass
Hans Theessink, Allan Taylor and Ramblin' Jack Elliott: guitar and backing vocals
Jacqui McShee, John Renbourn, Bert Jansch, Bill Keith, Thierry Schoysman, Happy Traum, Tucker Zimmerman, Hamish Imlach, Wizz Jones,
Wannes Van De Velde: backing vocals. | 4'15" |

Total time : 75'34"

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- DERROLL ADAMS
- HAPPY TRAUM
- RAMBLIN' JACK ELLIOTT
- ROLAND VAN CAMPENHOUT
- WANNES VAN DE VELDE
- TUCKER ZIMMERMAN
- WIZZ JONES
- BERT JANSCH
- YOURA MARCUS
- BILL KEITH
- JACQUI McSHEE
- HAMISH IMLACH
- JOHN RENBOURN
- DANNY THOMPSON
- ALLAN TAYLOR
- HANS THEESSINK



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