



**DERROLL ADAMS**  
**BANJO TROUBADOUR**  
**A LIVE RECORDING**

STARMAN  
RECORDS

## Derroll Adams: Banjo Troubadour

Derroll Adams was a 5 string banjo player, travelling troubadour, songwriter, poet, composer and painter. He was born in Portland (Oregon), USA on November 27, 1925 and died in Antwerp, Belgium on February 6, 2000.

Derroll started his European adventure in February 1957 thanks to his very good friend Ramblin' Jack Elliott who came over to Europe in 1955. Derroll's baritone voice matched perfectly with Jack's high-pitched voice as did the mix of banjo and guitar. The duo made a lifelong impression on the young generation of that time. Together they became key players in the folk scene in the UK and all over the continent and made many recordings together.

One of Derroll's most important songs is for sure his anti-war song "Portland Town", written in 1953. It was recorded by Jack Elliott, Joan Baez, Marianne Faithfull, Colin Wilkie and Shirley Hart, Hot Vulture, CCC Inc., Arlo Guthrie, Vera Coomans, Tom Theuns. Many other contemporary singers and bands have added it their repertoire: The Avett Brothers, Cara Luft, Lady Maisery and many more.

Jack went back to the States in 1961 and Derroll continued his journey in Europe. In London, Derroll met Donovan in the early sixties. Donovan wrote a tribute song for Derroll entitled "Epistle to Derroll" in 1967. They are both featured in the American documentary "Don't Look Back" (1967) by D.A. Pennebaker about Bob Dylan's UK tour in 1965.

He settled in Belgium in 1958. First in Brussels (1958-1967) then in Antwerp (1967-2000) where folk and blues singer Ferre Grignard invited him to stay at his house during the winter of 1967.

At the time these recordings were made (1973 and 1980), Derroll was at his best. He played in Belgium and toured regularly in Holland, France, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, England, Scotland and Ireland. He recorded four critically acclaimed solo studio albums: "Portland Town" (1967), "Feeling Fine" (1972), "Moving On" (1974) and "Along the way" (1976)

He was a great entertainer and his concerts were "total" performances with very high spirited introductions, funny jokes, and fine songs, often folk and protest songs from the likes of The Carter Family, Jimmie Rodgers, Woody Guthrie and many more. Derroll never used finger picks on his 5 string banjo and therefore had a dynamic range and an amazingly beautiful tone. His low voice was generous and heart-warming. He always gave a very personal touch to every interpretation and his singing and banjo playing were one. From the heart. He used to say "each song has to become mine before I can play and sing it". We hope you will enjoy these live recordings by a unique artist with the rare talent to make you feel like he is sitting next to you and performing only for you...

A few words about some of the songs on this album:

**RICH AND RAMBLING BOY:** Derroll, performed this song at Jack and June's wedding in 1955 as their best man. As Derroll mentioned, it is a highway man song known under various titles.

**THE SKY:** This song, one of my favourites, is part of a trilogy Derroll wrote: "The Valley" / "The Mountain" / "The Sky". A very personal but at the same time universal composition.

**900 MILES:** Derroll loved this tuning. He gives a unique and very personal interpretation of this folk ballad. He is speeding up the tune.

**MULESKINNER BLUES:** Originally "Blue Yodel #8", by Jimmie Rodgers. It was speeded up and popularised as "Muleskinner Blues". Derroll played this one at every show.

**COLUMBUS GEORGIA:** One of Derroll's favourites because of the lonesome and bluesy feeling.

**FREIGHT TRAIN BLUES:** This song dates back to the days of the old steam engines. Derroll loved the cry of the freight train whistles, its wailing sound.

**AIN'T GOT NO HOME:** This Woody Guthrie's song reflects some of the hardships Derroll suffered in his life.

Thank you Felix for presenting our banjoman to a new generation...

With special thanks to our friend Jef Van Gool  
Danny and Rebecca Adams (wife & daughter)  
Antwerp, November 2014

For more information on Derroll Adams and his music:

Derroll Adams Official Website: <http://www.derrolladams.org/>

DVD: "Derroll Adams - I Was Born In Portland Town" very fine documentary made by Patrick Ferryn (2005) :<http://www.derrolladams.org/en/i-was-born-in-portland-town.html>

See also Derroll Adams banjo techniques by Walter De Peuter : <http://www.derrolladams.org/en/walter-banjo-techniques.html>

Derroll Adams is on Facebook! Visit the fansite hosted by Walter De Peuter: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/32419737132/>

This album was produced by Starman Records and licensed with the kind permission of VRT (Flemish Radio in Belgium) which made the original recordings. The mastertape was restored to the best possible audio quality. As the multitrack tape did not survive none of the songs could be remixed.

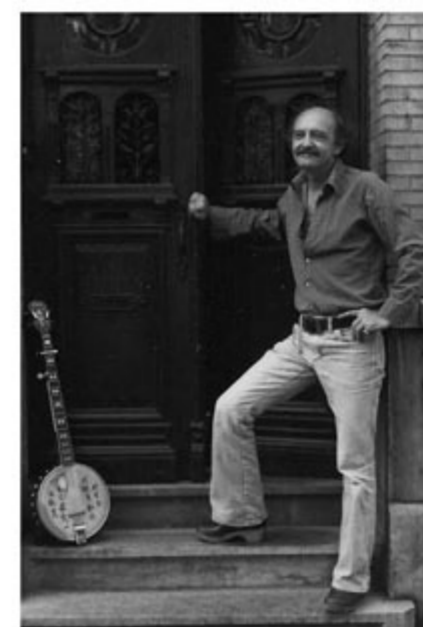
Side A track 1, Side B tracks 1-5 were recorded by BRT2 Omroep Antwerpen at the 11th Country Evening on April 26, 1980 at zaal Elckerlyc in Antwerp, Belgium.

Side A, tracks 2-5 were recorded on February 28, 1973 at the "Troubadoursavond", Aula Maria Theresia College, Leuven, Belgium.

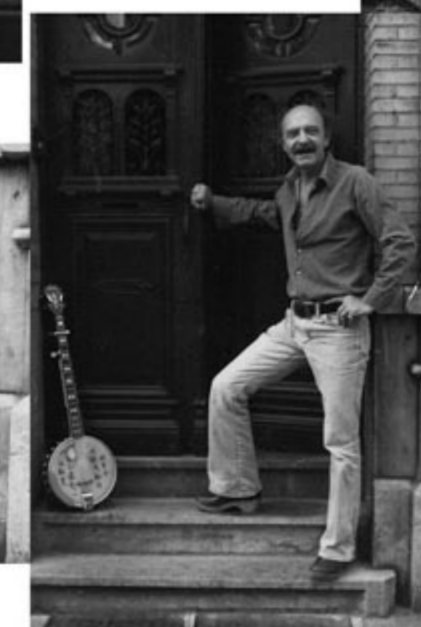
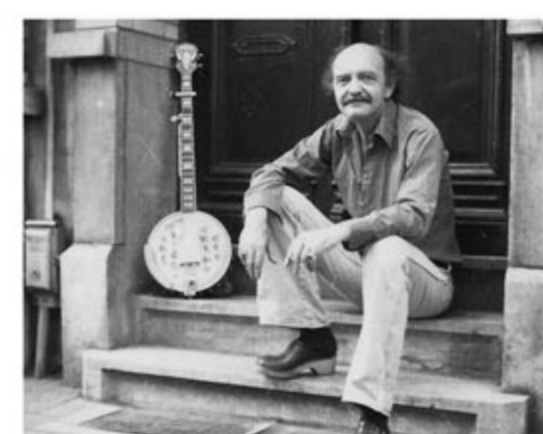
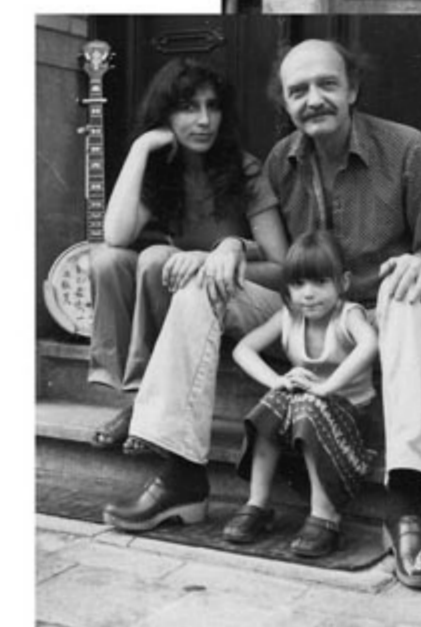
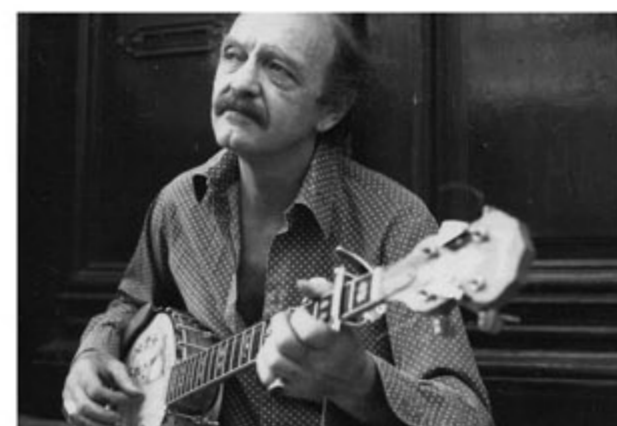
Cover design by Pieter Willemen. Frontcover photo by David Peabody. Inside pictures by Roland Minnaert and René van Leijden. All music and graphic design is subject of copyright protection.

Join the Starman Records Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/StarmanRecords>. Starman Records is also available at [www.Starmanrecords.com](http://www.Starmanrecords.com) or you can mail us at [Starmanrecords@telenet.be](mailto:Starmanrecords@telenet.be).

SMR037



1978? With Rebecca and Danny, Hertsdeinstraat 49 in 2018 Antwerp. photographer René Van Leijden



Very important: the [correct link](http://www.derrolladams.org/walter/start.html) to Derroll Adams banjo techniques by Walter De Peuter is: <http://www.derrolladams.org/walter/start.html>



STARMAN  
RECORDS

Sept 7th, 1969 - 'Sportpaleis' in Antwerp - Kazuno '69 - photographer Roland Minnaert

# DERROLL ADAMS

# BANJO TROUBADOUR

## A LIVE RECORDING

### SIDE A

1. RICH & RAMBLING BOY (A.P. CARTER)
2. DARLING COREY (TRAD.ARR. DERROLL ADAMS)
3. THE SKY (DERROLL ADAMS)
4. BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN (TRAD. ARR. DERROLL ADAMS)
5. 900 MILES (TRAD. ARR. DERROLL ADAMS)

### SIDE B

1. MULESKINNER BLUES (J. RODGERS / G. VAUGHN)
2. COLUMBUS GEORGIA (TRAD. ARR. D. ADAMS)
3. FREIGHT TRAIN BLUES (J. LAIR)
4. AIN'T GOT NO HOME IN THIS WORLD ANYMORE (WOODY GUTHRIE)
5. WILDWOOD FLOWER (TRAD. ARR. D. ADAMS)

ALL TRACKS RECORDED LIVE IN 1973-1980 BY THE BELGIAN NATIONAL RADIO.

JOIN THE STARMAN RECORDS FACEBOOK PAGE AT: [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/STARMANRECORDS](https://www.facebook.com/starmanrecords).  
FIND STARMAN RECORDS AS WELL AT: [WWW.STARMANRECORDS.COM](http://WWW.STARMANRECORDS.COM) OR MAIL US AT [STARMANRECORDS@TELENET.BE](mailto:STARMANRECORDS@TELENET.BE).

STARMAN  
RECORDS

