



***In Praise of Crows* by BOB LESLIE**

Sleeve Notes (Lyrics available at boblesliemusic.com):

01) Don't Start the Revolution in the Morning – I was thinking about demos I'd been at, and got to wondering why the musicians who appeared onstage at the end were rarely seen on the march itself. My own lifestyle provided the obvious answer!

02) In Praise of Crows (Here, Pal, Have an Eyeball) – A satire on the Twa Corbies. It seemed to me that a couple of crows pecking away at a corpse would be more likely to discuss the menu than the nefarious goings-on at the palace. A certain Mr Pratchett may have also inspired an item on that menu.

03) My Foolish Heart – A famous and instantly recognisable folksinger of my acquaintance, whose name and face escape me, told me that all singers should have a daft song with a ridiculously easy to sing chorus in their repertoire in case the audience needed waking up. So I wrote one. He was right, by the way.

04) Fickle as the Moon – At what now seems an obviously too early age, I made a large investment in the Bank of Love, and, very quickly, the interest rate plummeted (at least, on the part of the lady concerned). Nowadays, the memory provokes a wry smile (and this song), but I remember being a tad upset at the time.

05) Lest We Forget – Watching the Remembrance Sunday ceremony at the Cenotaph in London, I noticed the gathering included a bunch of politicians whom I knew had been involved in promoting the sale of arms to some very questionable régimes. I grew a little angry.

06) Next Best Bed – This is definitely a woman's song, so I asked my talented daughter, Alice, to sing it. I love Shakespeare, and, as Ben Jonson said, "honor his memory on this side idolatry." When I came across Carol Ann Duffy's marvellous prose poem 'Anne Hathaway,' I was moved to remodel it as a song. Many thanks to Dame Carol and her publishers for their permission to publish this.

07) Sittin' in the Belly of the Whale – Jonah didn't want to speak out, and so spent an unpleasant interlude inside a giant fish. I'm a bit of a speaker-outer myself, and I think the world could do with a lot more of us!

08) Hallowe'en – I'm a big fan of supernatural folk songs, and it was that time of year, so I thought I'd add another one. This is a bit of a Scottish-type Hallowe'en.

09) Peerie-Fool – Being half-Orkadian, and, as I mention above, a fan of supernatural folk songs, I was overjoyed to come across this Orkney mixture of Rumplestiltskin and Bluebeard. There was a lot of detail to squeeze into a song, but I think I just about managed it! Google the title for the full story.

10) Up in the Mornin – My friend and former musical partner Alistair Kerr, knowing my aversion to winter, suggested I set a tune to Robert Burns' views on the subject. Rabbie and I are in total accord on the matter.

11) One Size Don't Fit All – A plea for tolerance in a harsh and unforgiving age. That sounds awfully serious, but my intention is to raise a wee smile or two.

12) When Dreams Come Hame tae Bide – Like the honeysuckle and the bindweed, we turn to the left as our neighbours turn to the right. Lots of love'n'kisses and hugs, but we really have to be going. Please feel free to visit, you'll be welcome – same old place, new house (a bit of a Do It Yourself affair, but that's what we like).

Bess Millie - Bonus track – This tale of the Stromness witch who inspired Sir Walter Scott first appeared on my *Land and Sea* album. My buddy in Hatteras Island N.C., Liz Browning Fox, presents a Celtic music show on Radio Hatteras. She had kept the original demo (which I'd lost in a hard-drive meltdown) and recently sent me a copy. I decided I liked the arrangement better, so that's why you're getting a chance to hear it! Enjoy!