

IMAGINATIONAL ANTHEM VOL. X

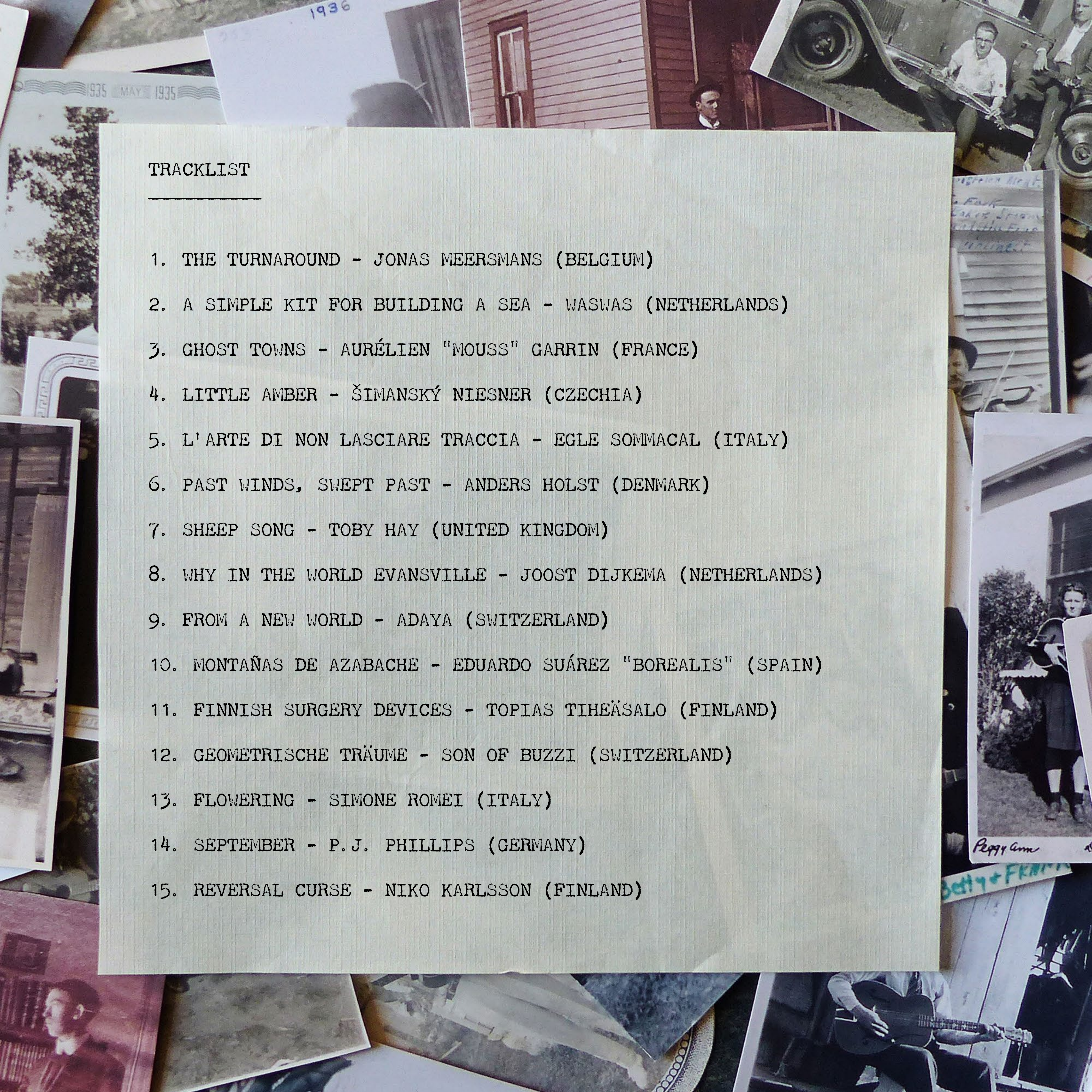


OVERSEAS EDITION



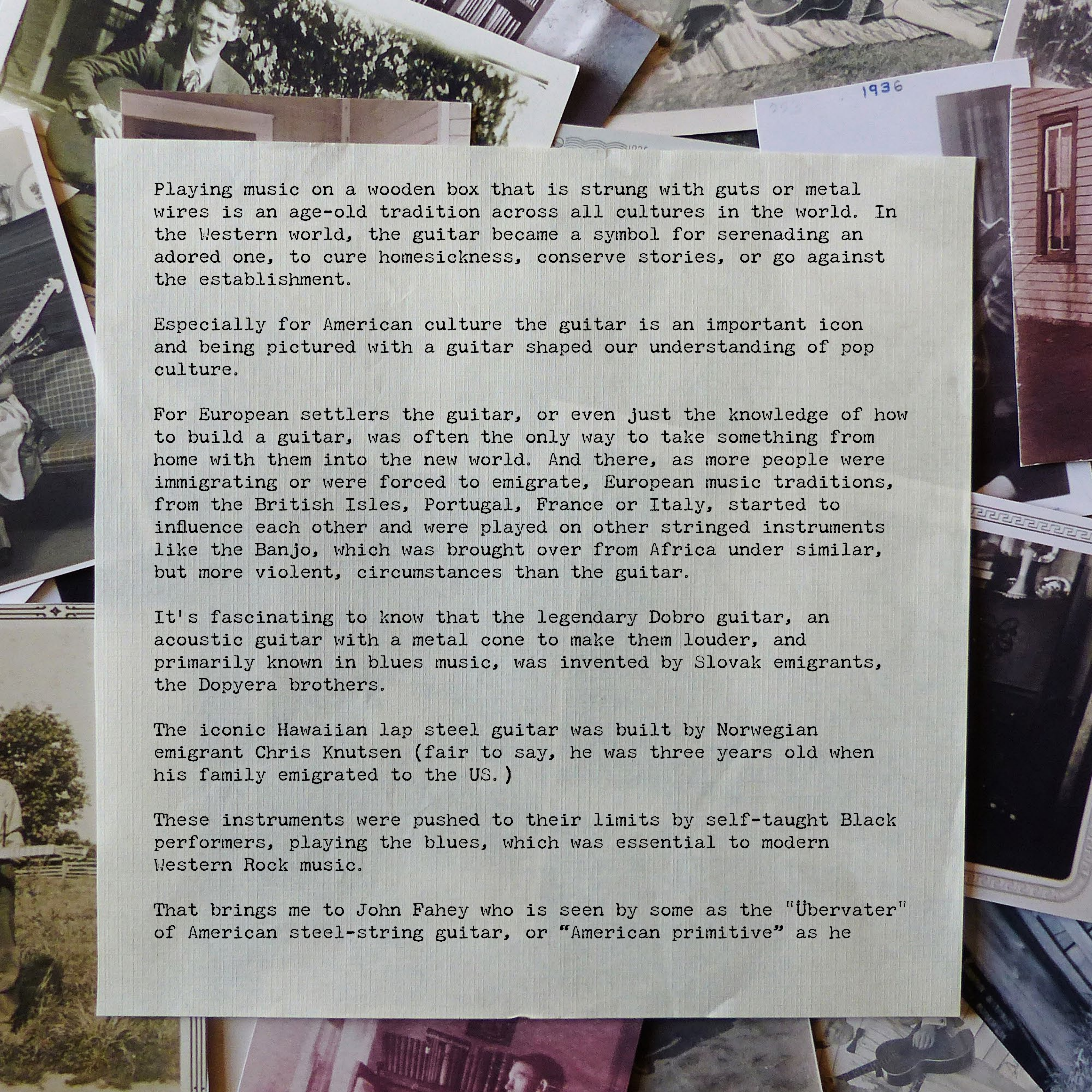
NICK 1923





TRACKLIST

1. THE TURNAROUND - JONAS MEERSMANS (BELGIUM)
2. A SIMPLE KIT FOR BUILDING A SEA - WASWAS (NETHERLANDS)
3. GHOST TOWNS - AURÉLIEN "MOUSS" GARRIN (FRANCE)
4. LITTLE AMBER - ŠIMANSKÝ NIESNER (CZECHIA)
5. L'ARTE DI NON LASCIARE TRACCIA - EGLE SOMMACAL (ITALY)
6. PAST WINDS, SWEEP PAST - ANDERS HOLST (DENMARK)
7. SHEEP SONG - TOBY HAY (UNITED KINGDOM)
8. WHY IN THE WORLD EVANSVILLE - JOOST DIJKEMA (NETHERLANDS)
9. FROM A NEW WORLD - ADAYA (SWITZERLAND)
10. MONTAÑAS DE AZABACHE - EDUARDO SUÁREZ "BOREALIS" (SPAIN)
11. FINNISH SURGERY DEVICES - TOPIAS TIHEÄSALO (FINLAND)
12. GEOMETRISCHE TRÄUME - SON OF BUZZI (SWITZERLAND)
13. FLOWERING - SIMONE ROMEI (ITALY)
14. SEPTEMBER - P. J. PHILLIPS (GERMANY)
15. REVERSAL CURSE - NIKO KARLSSON (FINLAND)



Playing music on a wooden box that is strung with guts or metal wires is an age-old tradition across all cultures in the world. In the Western world, the guitar became a symbol for serenading an adored one, to cure homesickness, conserve stories, or go against the establishment.

Especially for American culture the guitar is an important icon and being pictured with a guitar shaped our understanding of pop culture.

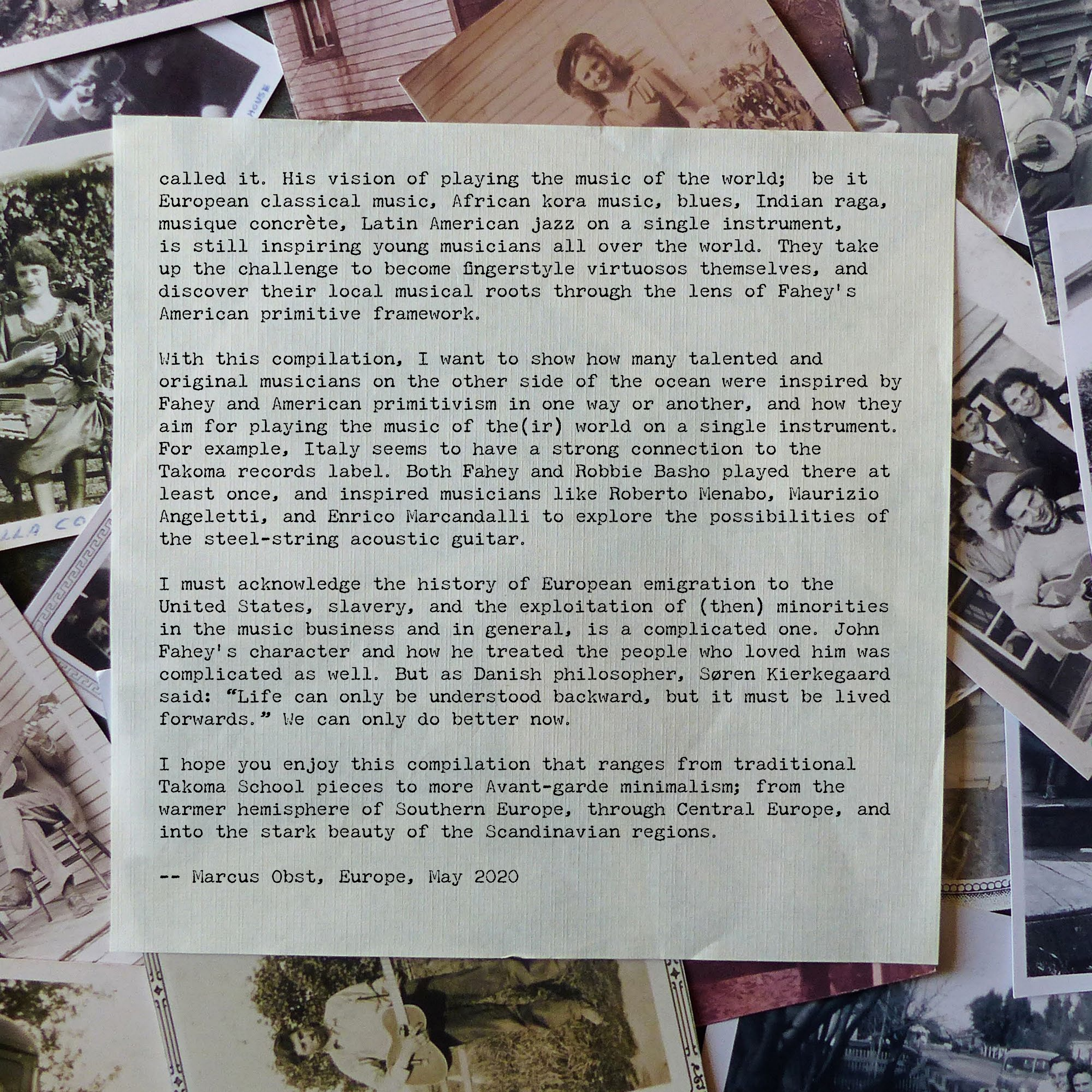
For European settlers the guitar, or even just the knowledge of how to build a guitar, was often the only way to take something from home with them into the new world. And there, as more people were immigrating or were forced to emigrate, European music traditions, from the British Isles, Portugal, France or Italy, started to influence each other and were played on other stringed instruments like the Banjo, which was brought over from Africa under similar, but more violent, circumstances than the guitar.

It's fascinating to know that the legendary Dobro guitar, an acoustic guitar with a metal cone to make them louder, and primarily known in blues music, was invented by Slovak emigrants, the Dopyera brothers.

The iconic Hawaiian lap steel guitar was built by Norwegian emigrant Chris Knutsen (fair to say, he was three years old when his family emigrated to the US.)

These instruments were pushed to their limits by self-taught Black performers, playing the blues, which was essential to modern Western Rock music.

That brings me to John Fahey who is seen by some as the "Übervater" of American steel-string guitar, or "American primitive" as he



called it. His vision of playing the music of the world; be it European classical music, African kora music, blues, Indian raga, musique concrète, Latin American jazz on a single instrument, is still inspiring young musicians all over the world. They take up the challenge to become fingerstyle virtuosos themselves, and discover their local musical roots through the lens of Fahey's American primitive framework.

With this compilation, I want to show how many talented and original musicians on the other side of the ocean were inspired by Fahey and American primitivism in one way or another, and how they aim for playing the music of the(ir) world on a single instrument. For example, Italy seems to have a strong connection to the Takoma records label. Both Fahey and Robbie Basho played there at least once, and inspired musicians like Roberto Menabo, Maurizio Angeletti, and Enrico Marcandalli to explore the possibilities of the steel-string acoustic guitar.

I must acknowledge the history of European emigration to the United States, slavery, and the exploitation of (then) minorities in the music business and in general, is a complicated one. John Fahey's character and how he treated the people who loved him was complicated as well. But as Danish philosopher, Søren Kierkegaard said: "Life can only be understood backward, but it must be lived forwards." We can only do better now.

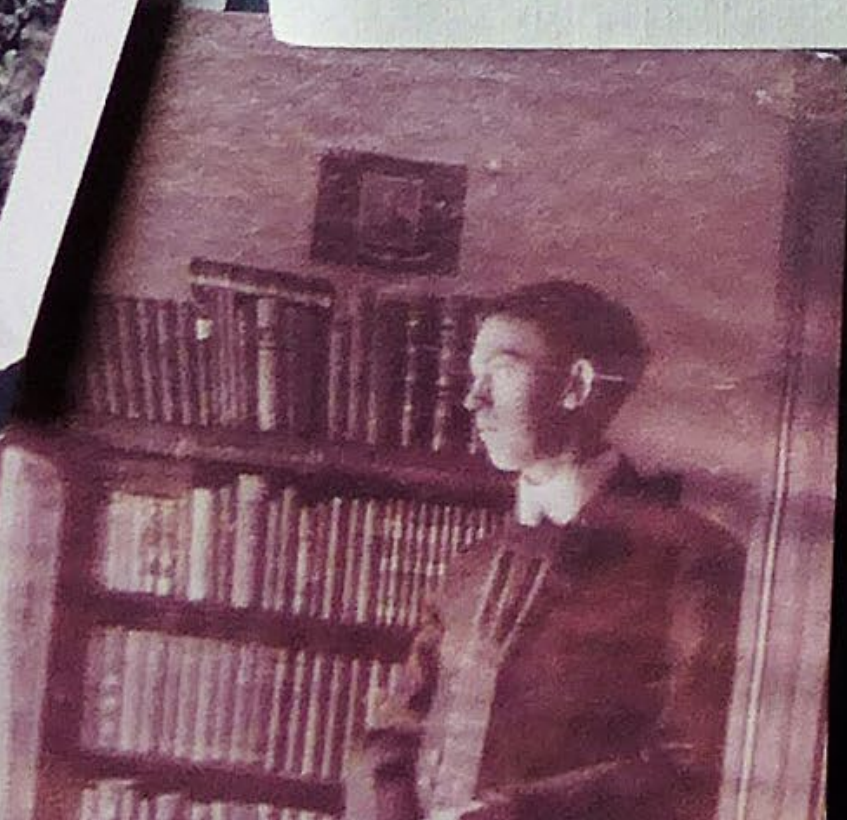
I hope you enjoy this compilation that ranges from traditional Takoma School pieces to more Avant-garde minimalism; from the warmer hemisphere of Southern Europe, through Central Europe, and into the stark beauty of the Scandinavian regions.

-- Marcus Obst, Europe, May 2020



JONAS MEERSMANS

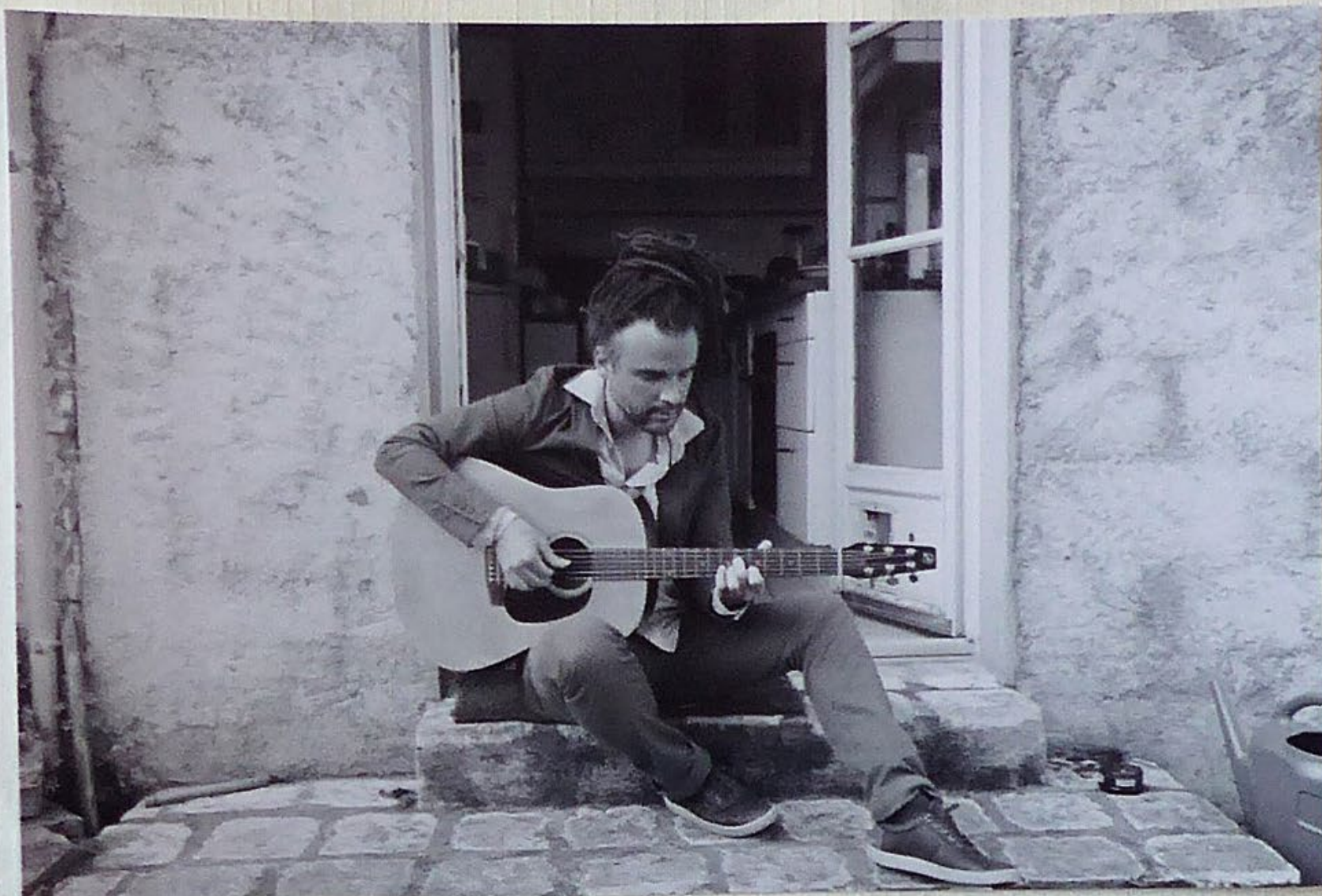
Jonas Meersmans debuted solo on acoustic guitar in 2017. His first album was well-received in Belgium and was regularly heard on national radio. A year after its predecessor, "Monnift II" was released, where the solitary guitar playing is supplemented with string and horn arrangements. In earlier years, Jonas recorded five well-received albums with the instrumental quartet Codasync. He also wrote music for Adil El Arbi and Bilall Fallah's award-winning film debut "Brothers," and has supported Ryley Walker and Cian Nugent.





WASWAS

Waswas is the name used by Alessandro Denti for his acoustic-primitive guitar outlets. Italian, now living in the Netherlands, he was and is active in many and diverse artistic entities, as a solo or in groups. He likes playing and listening to music a lot.



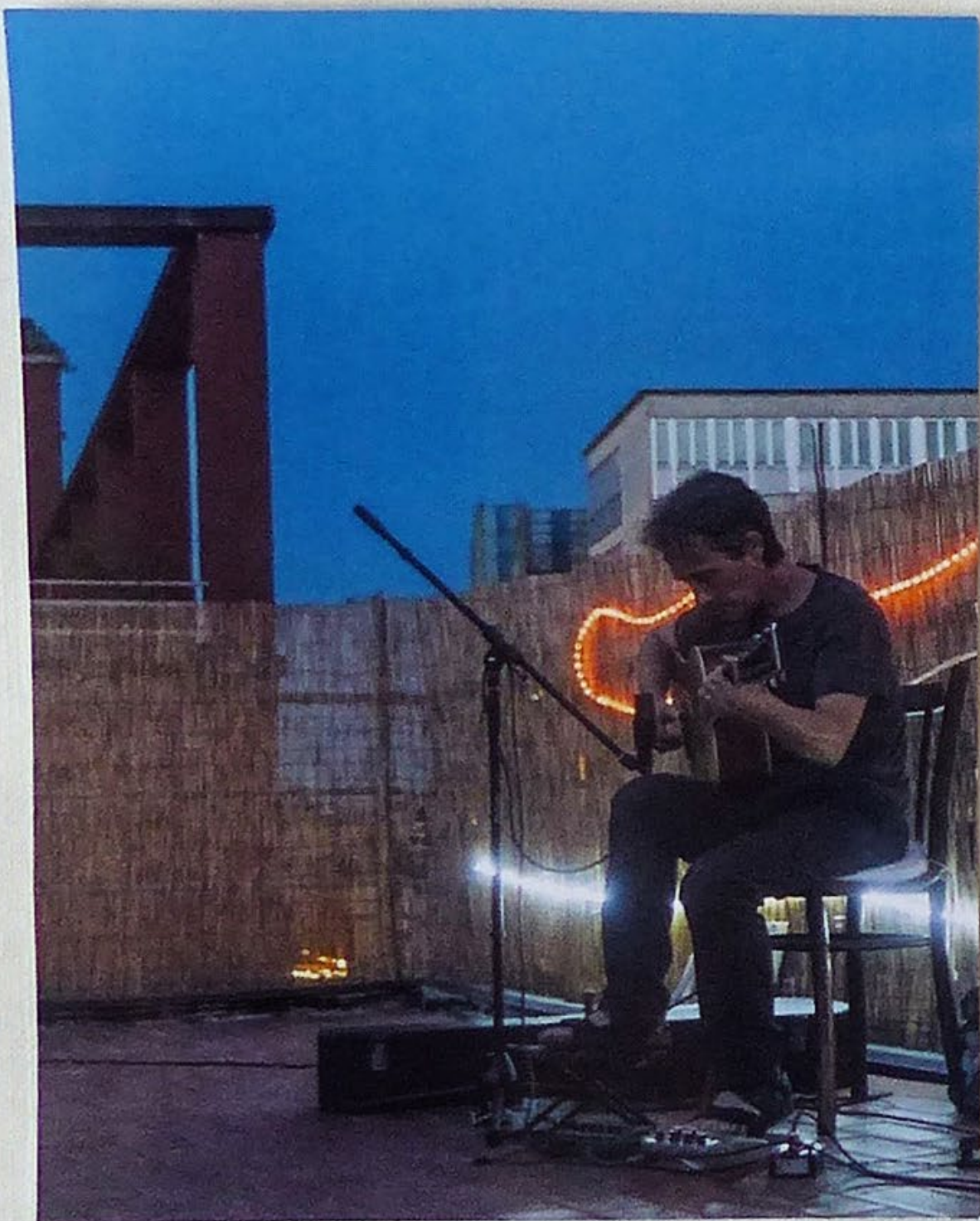
AURÉLIEN "MOUSS" GARRIN

Guitarist Aurélien "Mouss" Garrin lives and works in his hometown of Poitiers in the western part of France. He has studied classical guitar, American folk music and Indian and North African modal musics. After many rock band experiences, he discovered the music of John Fahey and the "American primitivism" musicians. He started immersing himself in this musical trend and began picking up the lap steel guitar. Since then, he has been composing solo instrumental works mainly inspired by American and British folk music, classical and modal musics. Aurélien Garrin has given over a hundred solo concerts and has released two self-produced albums - "Mouss" (2014) including ballads like 'November Song,' and "Les Adieux" (2019) that he recorded at home. He is currently working on a new 10-track recording scheduled for release in 2021.



ŠIMANSKÝ NIESNER

Acoustic guitar duo Jakub Šimanský and Tomáš Niesner hails from Czechia of Central Europe. Their debut album "Tance Neznámé" (Unknown Dances) came out in 2019 on Stoned to Death label. Both players share the same underground background as they played together in the noise rock band Unna for almost a decade. 2016 was a big turnout for Šimanský as the band went on hiatus and he released his debut solo record "Face to Face Against American Primitivism in Eastern Europe Vol. I." Later on Šimanský teamed up with his band mate Niesner and started putting together a new record. After releasing "Tance Neznámé" and intensive touring the duo is focusing on writing new material for an upcoming album.



EGLE SOMMACAL

Egle Sommacal is an Italian guitarist and composer, as well as member of the band Massimo Volume since 1992. Influenced by the music of John Fahey and Jack Rose, his first guitar solo album "Legno" was issued in 2007. With his sophomore - blues and Dixieland oriented - album "Tanto Non Arriva" (2009) he experimented with the electric guitar and a horn section. He returns to the acoustic guitar with his third and fourth albums - "Il Cielo Si Sta Oscurando" (2014), "L'Atlante Della Polvere" (2016) - with stronger references to the Contemporary Classical Music and Minimalism.

ANDERS HOLST



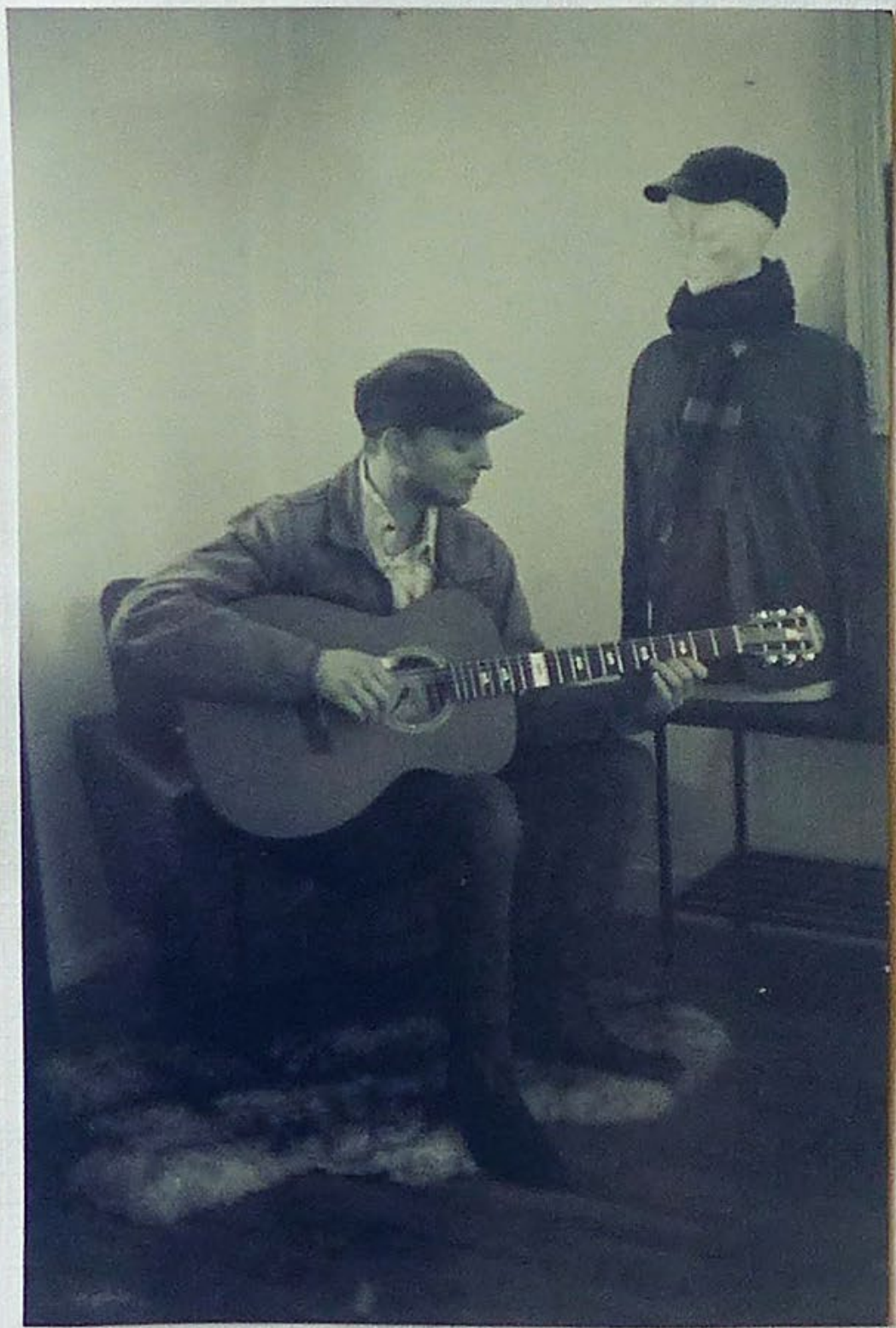
Anders Holst is a Danish guitarist/composer, who is continuously looking to explore the means of expression through sound, and seeking to disclose the many sonic and textural possibilities that his instrument holds. His music is informed by reflections upon the discoveries on his musical, pan-global radar. His musical interests look both back and ahead in time, and exhibit equal devotion to improvisation and structure.

He has released music in his own name on labels Blackout Music, Scissor Tail Records and on Rillbar as his alter ego Shadow Ray. Furthermore, he is part of several collaborations and has played many acclaimed venues in Denmark and internationally.

TOBY HAY

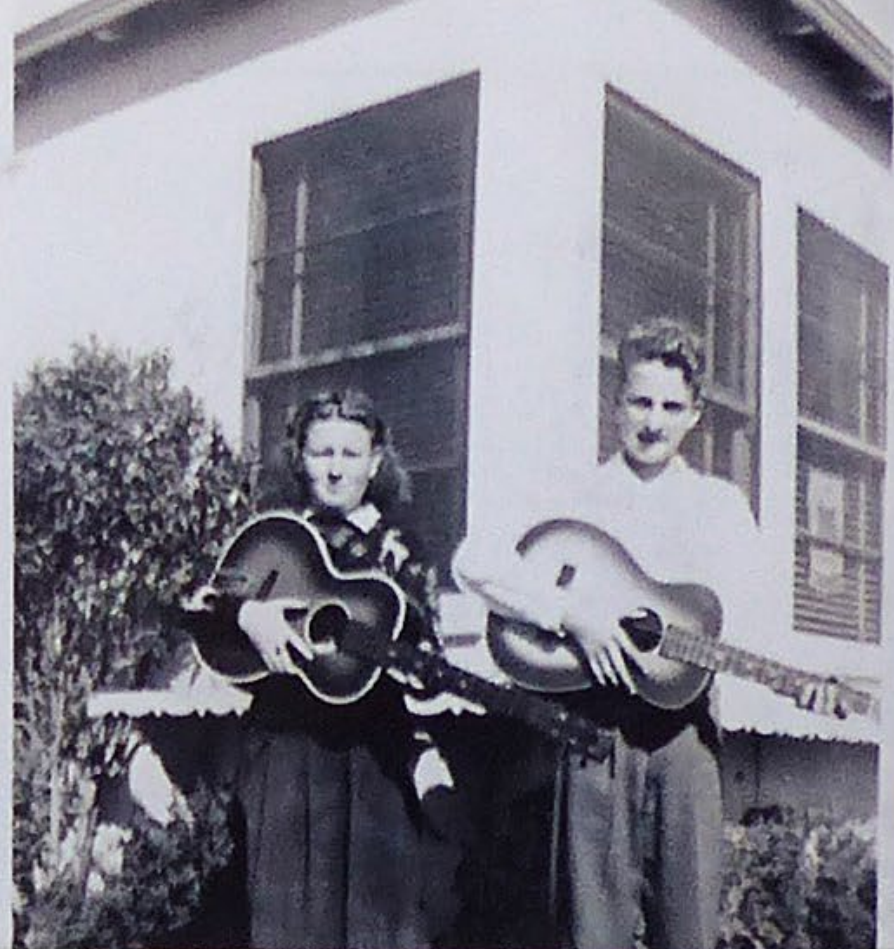


Toby Hay is a guitarist and composer from near Rhayader in mid Wales. Inspired by history, people and landscape, Toby writes beautifully evocative guitar instrumentals that effortlessly transport the listener to the mountains and rivers of his homeland. Twice nominated for the Welsh Music Prize, Toby has toured the UK and Ireland extensively over the last few years and has built a reputation as a captivating live performer. His latest record, "New Music For The 12 String Guitar" was recorded at Real World Studios on a custom instrument built for Toby by Roger Bucknall of Fylde Guitars.



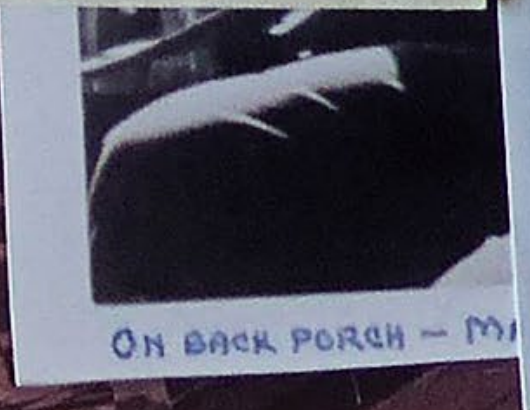
JOOST DIJKEMA

Joost Dijkema, pronounced "Yowst Dykuh-ma," saw the light of day in 1989. Although originally a drummer, he picked up the guitar when a teenager and it quickly became his main focus. After hearing Leo Kottke's 1969 album "6- & 12-string guitar" and Michael Chapman's "Time Past And Time Passing" he was determined to practise fingerstyle guitar techniques. It resulted in his first LP "Sacred Revelations" in 2016. The colorful follow-up "Time Thief" (2019) expands the horizon of Dijkema's music with meandering and intense guitar explorations on acoustic (6- and 12- string) and electric guitar, mutated bluegrass and lazy yet lingering folk-rock.



ADAYA

Adaya, from Switzerland, presents captivating, poetic songs, driven by her banjo- and guitar play. Magical moments, full of sensitivity and powerful expression are simultaneously presented. Sonically, she strives to express the hidden treasures of every living being, and of the bright and dark periods in life. As a solo artist and composer, she travels around the world performing, deftly engaging both audiences and fellow artists.





EDUARDO SUÁREZ "BOREALIS"

Borealis is the solo project from the Austrian guitarist, Eduardo Suarez. Following his first EP in 2008 in post rock style, he began in 2012 to develop a purer primitive folk style, resulting in the following recordings: The EP "Los ojos del sobremundo" (2012) and the full length "Tumba para un caballo cojo" (2013). In 2015 the "Final Vertical" EP was released, adding a strong ambient component to Borealis music, and his most recent album "Loma Aerea" (Aerial Slope) was released in 2016. (Truco Espárrago/Woodland Recordings/Reverb Worship)



TOPIAS TIHEÄSALO

Topias Tiheäsalo has been playing and performing improvised music for the past 20 years. In addition to "this kind of guitar music," he plays free jazz, baroque music improvisations, free improv, rock music, and improvised thrash metal. Additionally, he's doing music programs for the Finnish National Radio YLE Radio 1, composes sound art and also do music for silent film screenings. He's been working with Finnish musician and artist Lau Nau and together with Marja Ahti and Niko-Matti Ahti I organize concerts and festivals under the name of Himerä.

SON OF BUZZI



The Zurich/Switzerland based duo "Son of Buzzi" consider themselves an installation; putting together visual collages and solo acoustic guitar music. The armamentarium consists of video-collages from cell-phone film snippets, diary-films, road movies and much more plus 6- and 12-string acoustic guitar pieces which refer to experimental folk as well as to early minimalist composers with an "primitive" approach.



SIMONE ROMEI

Simone Romei (Reggio Emilia, 1982), Italian singer-songwriter. As Des Moines, he released his first "s/t" private press record in 2015. After the EP "Backwoods", his sophomore album "Like Freshly Mown Grass" was issued in 2018. Influenced by the Sixties British-Folk and the American Primitive Guitar music, the new album was produced by Egle Sommacal. In 2019, he decided to quit singing and get more into the acoustic guitar.



P. J. PHILLIPS

P.J. Phillips is a 31-year-old German-American living in Essen. Having roots in the DIY Punk and Hardcore scene, his music is informed by a DIY ethos and mentality. Self-taught, he has been playing guitar since he was 12 years old. Phillips likes film photography, the woods, and his dog.

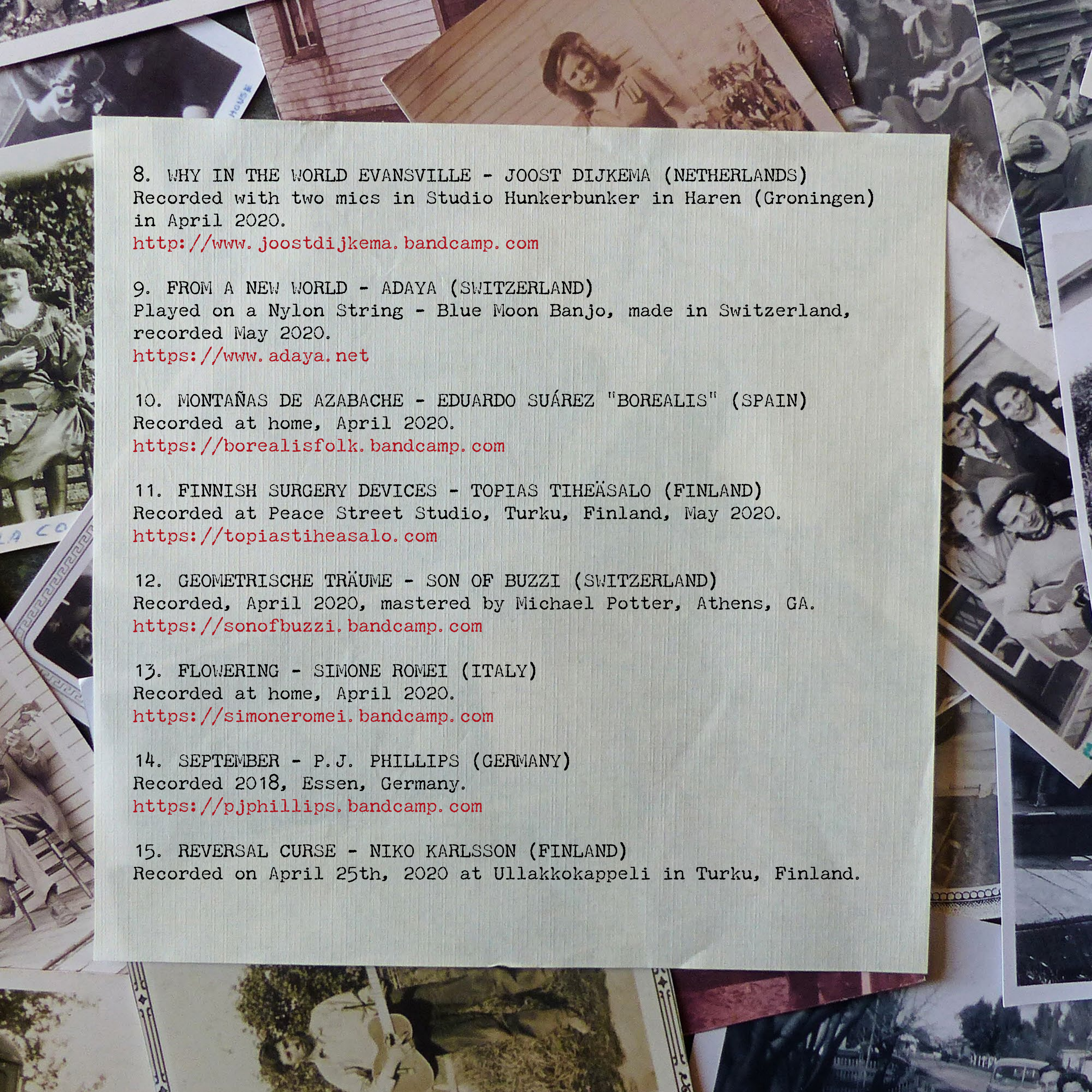


NIKO KARLSSON

Niko Karlsson is a musician and visual artist born and still living in Turku, Finland. Usually he plays and records at home on a cassette 4-track, balancing experiments with solo steel string guitar with a more layered approach using different instruments and vocals. His solo music has been released by Feeding Tube, Spirit of Orr and Anoema. He also plays in the electric improv drone unit Altaat with Miki Brunou.

CREDITS

1. THE TURNAROUND - JONAS MEERSMANS (BELGIUM)
Recorded and mixed, March 2020, Belgium.
<https://jonasmeersmans.bandcamp.com>
2. A SIMPLE KIT FOR BUILDING A SEA - WASWAS (NETHERLANDS)
Recorded and mixed, April 2020, Netherlands.
<https://waswas.bandcamp.com>
3. GHOST TOWNS - AURÉLIEN "MOUSS" GARRIN (FRANCE)
Composed at home in April 2020 in Poitiers/France during the lock down. Mixed by Henning Bosbach.
<https://mouss.bandcamp.com/album/les-adioux>
4. LITTLE AMBER - ŠIMANSKÝ NIESNER (CZECHIA)
Recorded and mixed, April 2020, Czechia.
<https://stoned-to-death.bandcamp.com/album/tance-nezn-m>
5. L'ARTE DI NON LASCIARE TRACCIA - EGLE SOMMACAL (ITALY)
Recorded by Roberto Passuti at Spectrum Studio, Bologna, Italy.
6. PAST WINDS, SWEEP PAST - ANDERS HOLST (DENMARK)
Recorded and mixed, April 2020.
<http://www.andersholst.dk>
7. SHEEP SONG - TOBY HAY (UNITED KINGDOM)
Recorded for the Crossed Paths - Arts Council of Wales funded project by Miranda Whall 2018.
Engineered and mixed by Tim Hay.
<http://tobyhay.com>



8. WHY IN THE WORLD EVANSVILLE - JOOST DIJKEMA (NETHERLANDS)
Recorded with two mics in Studio Hunkerbunker in Haren (Groningen)
in April 2020.

<http://www.joostdijkema.bandcamp.com>

9. FROM A NEW WORLD - ADAYA (SWITZERLAND)
Played on a Nylon String - Blue Moon Banjo, made in Switzerland,
recorded May 2020.

<https://www.adaya.net>

10. MONTAÑAS DE AZABACHE - EDUARDO SUÁREZ "BOREALIS" (SPAIN)
Recorded at home, April 2020.

<https://borealisfolk.bandcamp.com>

11. FINNISH SURGERY DEVICES - TOPIAS TIHEÄSALO (FINLAND)
Recorded at Peace Street Studio, Turku, Finland, May 2020.

<https://topiastiheasalo.com>

12. GEOMETRISCHE TRÄUME - SON OF BUZZI (SWITZERLAND)
Recorded, April 2020, mastered by Michael Potter, Athens, GA.

<https://sonofbuzzi.bandcamp.com>

13. FLOWERING - SIMONE ROMEI (ITALY)
Recorded at home, April 2020.

<https://simoneromei.bandcamp.com>

14. SEPTEMBER - P.J. PHILLIPS (GERMANY)
Recorded 2018, Essen, Germany.

<https://pjphillips.bandcamp.com>

15. REVERSAL CURSE - NIKO KARLSSON (FINLAND)
Recorded on April 25th, 2020 at Ullakkokappeli in Turku, Finland.

1936

1935 MAY 1935

Compiled, produced and designed by Marcus Obst • dyingforbadmusic.com

Mastered by Andrew Weathers • andrewweathers.com

Photography:

Jonas Meersmans by Joke De Wilde

Waswas by Fabio Intraina

Aurélien "Mouss" Garrin by Jérôme Hiernard

Šimanský Niesner by Anna Baštýřová

Anders Holst by Sebastian Hvass

Toby Hay by Matt Moran

Joost Dijkema by Frank Hospers

Adaya by Manuel Vargas Lépiz

Eduardo Suárez "Borealis" by Carmen Juidia

Son of Buzzi by themselves

Simone Romei by Veronica Caselli

P.J. Phillips by himself

Niko Karlsson by himself

Topias Tiheäsalo by Pauliina Mäkelä



(c) 2020 Tompkins Square • www.tompkinssquare.com

Peggy Anne

Betty + Frank