

Bio (Full-length)

The Old Silo invites you into a world of new beginnings, old regrets, might-have-beens, burning questions, beautiful women, horny geezers and gold diggers. Produced by indie rock hero Joel Plaskett and recorded at New Scotland Yard in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, James Hill's latest album cuts a deep, winding path through Folk, Roots Rock and Americana.

Hill has made a career as an award-winning ukulele player and songwriter, an uncompromising artist who "gives the ukulele its dignity back without ever taking himself too seriously" (*Songlines*). **The Old Silo** sees him charting a course into deeper, rockier waters with Plaskett at the helm. The album has an edginess and swagger unlike anything Hill has ever recorded: the thundering baritone ukulele riff in *She's Still Got It* wouldn't be out of place on a Black Keys album and the grinding slide ukulele in *Tie One On* would make Jack White proud. Catchy, energetic cuts like *New Moon*, *Promenade* and *Lovebirds* would be at home at any outdoor summer music festival.

But it's not all sex, drugs and ukulele. There are moments of stillness and striking beauty: the haunting strings in *For So Long*, the intimacy of *I'll Never Know*, and the country ballad *If Wishes Were Horses* show that Hill hasn't entirely lost himself in overdriven amps and pounding drums.

In addition to Hill's work on ukulele (tenor, baritone and slide), violin and drums, **The Old Silo** features a number of talented guests: Plaskett sings harmonies throughout and plays drums on five tracks, Anne Janelle brings soaring harmony and cello, Bill Stevenson adds his inimitable piano style to three songs and Joe Murphy weighs in with his killer blues harp on the hard-driving *Promenade*.

The Old Silo is Hill's first album since his acclaimed *Man With a Love Song* in 2011 and he has been anything but idle in the interim. World travels, strained friendships, persistent memories and a wedding have shaped the cast of characters that inhabit the world of **The Old Silo**. It's a cast that reads like the credits to an imaginary off-Broadway play: a mother, a father, an only son, an old man and two beautiful women. The album unfolds like a well-wrapped gift, each song revealing something more about the characters and, in turn, about the author.

Welcome to **The Old Silo**. Who knows what you'll find inside.

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