



ARTIST :
SETH LAKEMAN

ALBUM TITLE :
TALES FROM THE BARREL HOUSE

LABEL :
Honour Oak Records

AVAILABLE FROM :
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www.sethlakeman.co.uk

AWARD-WINNING SINGER-SONGWRITER'S 6th ALBUM DIGS DEEPER...

Recording one of the tracks for his new album down a disused West Country copper mine, gritty folk singer-songwriter (and virtuoso fiddler) Seth Lakeman could literally not have dug deeper into his roots for his 6th album, "Tales from the Barrel House." Not only did he write the entire album, he also plays everything on it himself and produced and mixed it too. Seth says he has enjoyed this solo recording project like no other. "I've been really keen for some time to get right back to the basics of 'Kitty Jay'.." (the £300 kitchen-table album that shot him to fame and won him a Mercury Music Prize nomination back in 2005).

"To be blunt, this is the type of album I could never have done with a major label. I'm grateful for having worked in some of the best-equipped studios and with top producers, but with this record I've felt completely free to do my own thing for the first time in years."

In keeping with this independent spirit, 'Tales from the Barrel House' will be released as a very special limited run (of 10,000 copies) and will be available from 14th November 2011 only via his website www.sethlakeman.co.uk. The first 1,000 copies will be signed by Seth. A short tour of the UK will follow in December.

The trademark bow-shredding violin riffs are still evident, together with the characteristic driving tenor guitar rhythms but there are some new, almost primitive sounds Seth now conjures up that give this album its distinctive and atmospheric vibe. 'Tales from the Barrel House' includes a lot of what Seth calls "dirty viola," banjo, bouzouki, a booming bass heartbeat from an old Salvation Army drum he rescued from a junkshop and a jangling array of percussion made up from bits of old iron or discarded tools found down the mine and around the Morwellham workshops.

Most of the songs on the album were laid down in the cooperage (The Barrel House of the title), old smithy and other workshops at the ghostly Morwellham mining port on the Devon bank of the River Tamar.

"It was very liberating being able to explore music in this magical valley, which is close to my Devon home. I was determined from the outset to do it as simply as possible, with just one recording engineer and as little multi-tracking and overdubs as possible. We used one sound field microphone. In any case, we couldn't fit that much gear down the mine!"

"I think we managed to get the most authentic, truly 'live' sound, which is important to me as I'd like listeners to feel immersed in this living history by hearing the stories of the people who inhabit the songs. I'd like fans to experience the atmosphere in which the album was recorded. I was seeking was to pay homage to the miners, sailors, skilled craftsmen and artisans, hard grafters who helped shape this landscape..I loved going to Morwellham every day".

"I feel this is a different album. It's definitely much more pared down and that's exactly what I wanted. It's the whole point of "Tales from the Barrel House "

Different it may be but Seth's trademark soaring vocals are at the forefront of this album. They demonstrate his knack for writing foot-stomping, sing-along hooks and it's still full of Seth's characteristic passion and energy, but there are more tender, thoughtful moments too and these haunting songs not only reveal another aspect to this gifted performer, but also provide an eloquent voice to people from the past.

"Tales from the Barrel House" will entrance and enthrall a growing army of Seth Lakeman's devoted present-day fans and, hopefully, be discovered by discerning music lovers of the future.

SETH LAKEMAN AND BAND

Tales from the Barrel House Tour December 2011

Fri 2 – CHELTENHAM Town Hall – 0844 576 2210
Sat 3 – DARTFORD The Orchard – 01322 220 000
Mon 12 – EXETER Lemon Grove – 01392 263 518
Tues 13 – BILSTON The Robin 2 – 01902 401 211
Wed 14 – BRIGHTON Concorde 2 – 01273 673 311
Thu 15 – SOUTHAMPTON The Brook – 02380 555366
Fri 16 – HOLMFIRTH Picturedrome – 0871 230 1101
Sat 17 – FROME Cheese & Grain – 01373 455 420
Sun 18 – FALMOUTH Princess Pavilion – 01326 211 222

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