

KATE BRAMLEY – LITTLE CANAAN – Tantobie Records TTRCD108

Release date – 14 July 2006

One Sheet

Track 1 – **LITTLE CANAAN** (Bramley/Lowe) / Crimple Brow (Bramley) 3.45

The title track of the album is a joint composition by Kate and producer Jez Lowe, written at the time of the recent floods in New Orleans, and bringing together many of the musical styles that have influenced Kate so much, and which are liberally spread around the rest of the album – American old-timey music, shape-note and gospel songs, Celtic music and Eastern European rhythms. The instrumental that completes the song is Kate's own composition, with Bad Penny Andy May swapping his usual Northumbrian pipes for a set of Irish pipes.

Kate – Vocals, fiddle / Jez Lowe – Dulcimer, percussion / Andy May – Uilleann Pipes / Edwina Hayes – Backing vocals.

Track 2 – **NORTHERN SONGBIRD** (Hanham) 4.19

A song by New Zealander Jacquie Hanham, with whom Kate sang in the band Freewheelin' in the late 1990's. Inspired by an elderly lady of Jacquie's acquaintance, it is the story of a woman's journey from Britain to start a new life down under, and her memories as she looks back on her life from old age. The track features respected Tyneside-based sax-player Dave Dunston, as well as Bad Penny Sean Taylor on fretless bass.

Kate – Vocals / Jez Lowe – Guitar / Sean Taylor – Bass / Dave Dunston – Saxophone

Track 3 – **TREVITHICK AND THE MINE** (Bramley) 3.44

A Kate Bramley original, inspired by her travels to the Grass Valley Mine, California, and recalling her childhood in Cornwall, a part of England famous for its tin mines, and where the famous engineer Trevithick installed the world's first steam railway. The character of Cousin Jack is a popular figure in Cornish folklore and song, and is a widespread nick-name derived from the preference the miners had of always working with trustworthy family members in the danger of the mine.

Kate – Vocals, guitar / Jez Lowe – Banjo, harmonica, vocals / James Keelaghan – Vocals

Track 4 – **TAHUNANUI BAY** (Bramley) 4.16

Kate started this song during a visit to New Zealand in 2001, and finished it on a return trip with The Bad Pennies in 2006. It was inspired by the beautiful coastline at the northern tip of the South Island, looking across the Marlborough Sound to Wellington and the North Island. New Zealand's Maori name *Ao Tea Roa*, echoed here in this song, translates as "Land of the long white cloud". Canadian balladeer James Keelaghan is the second voice on this song.

Kate – Vocals, fiddle / Jez Lowe – Guitar / James Keelaghan – Vocals

Track 5 – **CARTER'S FAIR** (Bramley) 3.34

Kate's own song, written after her 2005 visit to the Marymass Carters horse-fair in Irvine, Scotland, which has been held continuously for centuries, and refuelled her own love of horses which began during her childhood spent on a Cornish farm.

Kate – Vocals, cittern / Jez Lowe – Banjo / Andy May – Accordion / Edwina Hayes – Backing vocals.

Track 6 - **THE WALTZER** (Lowe) 4.29

Jez Lowe originally wrote this song for the BBC series The Radio Ballads under the title "Building and Setting", for a programme about fairgrounds, where it was sung by Barry Coope. It was re-written especially for Kate and has been part of The Bad Pennies repertoire for some time. This is the first time it has been recorded, and Edwina Hayes adds her vocal talents to the chorus.

Kate - Vocals, fiddle / Jez Lowe - Guitar / Andy May - Accordion, piano / Sean Taylor - Double bass / Edwina Hayes - Backing vocals.

Track 7 - **ROLAND'S OAK** (Bond) 3.45

Written by English songwriter Peter Bond. He was one of Kate's parents' favourite singers in the 1980's, and Kate is also a close friend of the actor Jonathan Bond, who is Peter's nephew. This mystical song is from the Bond's final album to date, Awkward Age.

Kate - Vocals, fiddle / Jez Lowe - Guitar / Sean Taylor - Double bass

Track 8 - **THE SHANTY BOY** (Trad. Arr. Bramley/Lowe) 3.45

A Canadian folk ballad that Jez Lowe learned from a book of Nova Scotian songs over twenty years ago, to which he added the short refrain used in this version and rewrote the last two verses. Kate changed the tempo, and has very much made it her own. The shanty boys were the men who worked the forests and logging camps in the Canadian wilderness in the 1800's.

Kate - Vocals, fiddle / Jez Lowe - Guitar / Andy May - Low whistle

Track 9 - **HARD TIMES ALL AROUND THE WORLD** - (Trad. Arr. - Bramley) 3.33

A medley of sorts, featuring the Canadian song HARD TIMES, that Kate learned from a 1983 record by the Yorkshire-based singers John Bowden and Vic Shepherd, coupled with the well-known Irish reel ALL AROUND THE WORLD, here played as a waltz. Kate reset the lyrics to give a more contemporary feel, while keeping the fighting spirit of the original.

Kate - Vocals, fiddles, bouzouki / Jez Lowe - Mandolin

Track 10 - **ITALIAN BOY IN LONDON** - (Bramley) 4.15

A song Kate wrote for her good friend, the actor Guiliano Neri, a stalwart performer for her own theatre company with whom she worked on many theatrical productions throughout the late 90's and early part of this decade.

Kate - Vocals, fiddle / Jez Lowe - Ten-string cittern, guitar / Andy May - Uilleann pipes

Track 11 - **ERIK RYDVALL'S MARCH** (Pirt)/ **WILDER/WELLS** (Bramley) 4.37

A closing medley of emigration songs, written by Kate during her time singing with the American singing troupe Northern Harmony, and book-ended by a tune written by her longtime friend Sam Pirt of the band 422.

Kate - Vocals, fiddle / Jez Lowe - guitar / Andy May - Whistle / James Keelaghan, Edwina Hayes, Jez Lowe - Vocal chorus

TTRCD108 'Little Canaan' Barcode 8053970108292 All rights reserved.

For further information contact Tantobie Records (UK), Crimple Brow, York Road, Green Hammerton, York, YO26 8BN jez@jezlowe.com +44 1423 339168