

# Talkin' Return Of The Great Folk Scare Blues

John Wesley Harding

Well I was born in 1965  
That was a hell of a good time to be alive  
Except that by the age of ten  
The music had turned crap again  
    Now people say they wanna bring back the 70's  
    I say hey give the bad music of today a chance

Punk came round, that was pretty scary  
It was like a contemporary Peter, Paul and Mary  
Shocking!  
And before the 80's got too far  
It was time for me to pick up my guitar  
    Picked it up  
    Looked good!

All my friends turned up their noses  
At Freewheelin' and For The Roses  
Preferring image over substance  
A hairstyle for a musical influence  
    All those Ultravox records, they're gathering dust  
    But me, I'm still listening to Live Rust  
    And if the 90's are the 60's turned upside down  
    Then the 80's were the 60's the right way up  
    Only with half the top cut off?  
    If you think about it!

And in the town where I did live  
There was no-one I could do hoot night with  
So I sat alone with my six strings  
And I learned how to play and sing  
    Woody Guthrie's guitar killed fascists and crime  
    But in Hastings, East Sussex, South of England  
    My guitar killed time?

And I got gigs opening for bands  
And things would get outta hand  
Cos big men would yell out their derision  
So I developed humor as a defense mechanism?  
    The main band of the night would be?..  
    And I'd go on first and I'd get carried away?  
    Literally

And I moved to the big old smoky city  
Just after University  
And I got a gig opening for a friend of mine  
Where I happened to be playing my ace in the right place at the  
Right time?  
    So I gave up my PhD  
    To become a dustbowl folky  
    That's Phil Ochs not Phil Oakey

And then I learned the Folksinger's Prayer and it goes like this:

Our Father  
Who art on Folkways  
Ramblin' Jack be thy name  
Thy Folk City come

Thy will be done  
On CD as it was on vinyl  
Give us this day our daily gig  
And forgive us our protest  
As we forgive those who protest against us  
And lead us not into electricity  
But deliver us from commercialism  
For Prine is the kingdom  
The power of the story  
Forever be clever  
A minor?

So hey everybody the time is near  
The Folk revival's coming here  
But it's a tough thing to revive today  
Cos it never really goes away  
That's cos it's a good thing  
So everyone it's time to come and claim your share  
It's time to re-iron your hair  
It's time to relearn Scarborough Fayre  
And in 5 years time you're gonna look back  
You're gonna say 'I was there'  
At the return of the great folk scare