

Menfolk Waits – Our Songs:

Brisk Lad –

A song whose tune and lyrics were collected separately in the West Country at the turn of the 20th century. Arranged by the members of the young British folk group Faustus, it tells the story of a poacher and his family.

Cutty Wren –

traditional protest song, reputedly sung by the people of Kent who rose up in 1341 against the oppressive taxation regime and marched to London to be betrayed by the teenage King.

Georgia –

The Spooky Men's take on Georgian Polyphonic singing. The words are probably made up but it doesn't matter - a gorgeous, atmospheric song that sends you to the mist topped Caucasus mountains.....

Hush –

A traditional American Spiritual that exists in many different forms. Ours stays close to the version done by the Golden Gate Quartet who were founded in Virginia in 1934 and sang songs like this in what was known as the "Jubilee Style" with close, formal, barbershop-tinged arrangements

Lay Me Low –

A Coope, Boyes & Simpson song - from an old Shaker hymn adapted by John Tams. It featured in their show about the First World War, "Private Peaceful" - co-written with the former Children's Poet Laureate - Michael Morpurgo.

Magnificent –

A song from the brilliant Australian Spooky Men's Chorale which takes a self-deprecating look at men's status & hygiene

Mess –

A tale of the terrible fate that can await you if you don't immediately clear up your breakfast things - you have been warned. By the Spooky Men.

Mravalzamier –

Rousing Table Song from Republic of Georgia, originally sung by men. Translates as 'Centuries of good fortune to you!'

Rain Today –

Randy Newman's tale of urban social deprivation. A fantastic arrangement by our very own Alan McDonald

Shallow Brown –

traditional song arranged by Coope, Boyes & Simpson - a sea shanty with strong references to the slave trade; those with a "shallow" brown skin were more highly prized and liable to work as house servants and body slaves.

(White Man) In Hammersmith Palais –

Originally recorded by the Clash in 1978. In a punk-reggae style, it's a tale of Joe Strummer's parallel frustrations with London's bland black music scene and new punk groups with no social conscience. Both 'only looking for fun'. A great arrangement by Jono.

Won't You Roll me In Your Arms –

by Coope, Boyes & Simpson & based on a traditional folk song about men's historical commitment to long term relationships - or not!