

Midwest troubadour is *Live & Alone* on CD release

Those who follow folk singer songwriter Mark Dvorak know he is at his best when performing live. **Live & Alone** is Dvorak's twenty-first release and was recorded in an empty concert hall outside of Chicago during the height of the great pandemic. Just ten days before the 2020 presidential election, Dvorak took the stage for WFMT 98.7 fm's *Folk Stage* broadcast. Dvorak performed for a radio audience, his signature voice clear and strong, his playful sense of humor ever-present; the solid musicianship, the great songs, the tuning and flubs, all there.

And those who happened to have tuned into the broadcast that evening will know that **Live & Alone** is pretty representative of the way the whole show went down.

Live & Alone contains some of Dvorak's best-written songs. The set kicks off with the definitive **Every Step of the Way**, Dvorak's signature piece penned in 2005. **The Middle Years** makes a light-hearted remark on aging followed by the stunning **Trying To Get the Balance Right**, a song written by Johnny Duhan of Limerick, Ireland.

Dvorak turns in a faithful arrangement of Billy Hill's **The Glory of Love**, a song he picked up "from an old scratchy recording by Big Bill Broonzy." Dvorak tips his hat to the great Woody Guthrie with **This Train Ain't Bound for Glory Anymore**, a lyric composed from famous Guthrie titles and phrases.

It'll Be Better When It's Better is a mischievous and catchy original, and Dvorak's arrangement of Townes Van Zandt's bluesy **Brand New Companion** is spot-on.

The mood then changes with Dvorak's powerful invocation **Let Love Go On** and brightens up again with the twangy **Old Friends**. Dvorak closes the evening with an elegant performance of Joni Mitchell's **Both Sides Now**.

Mark Dvorak is a unique artist who has endured well into the digital age. He continues to thrive, writing, recording, and traveling, all the while creating a rich and poignant context to a kind of music that still belongs to all of us. Listen. Join in.



The *Chicago Tribune* has called Mark Dvorak "masterful," and the Fox Valley Folk Festival describes him as "a living archive of song and style." Dvorak has won awards for children's music, journalism and was honored in 2013 with the FARM Lantern Bearer Award from Folk Alliance International. In 2008 he received the Woodstock Folk Festival Lifetime Achievement Award and in 2012 Rich Warren, host of *The Midnight Special*, named Dvorak "Chicago's official troubadour."

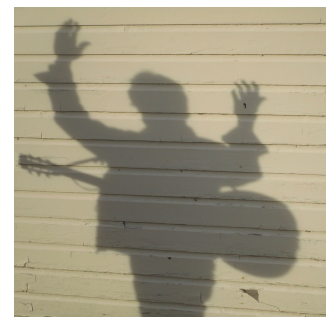
"a folk singer whose way with a song is sheer magic." HICKORY RIDGE CONCERTS, ELLISVILLE IL

"Dvorak doesn't play folk music, he IS folk music!" KALAMAZOO NOISE

"Mark Dvorak is a treasure - genuine, talented, truly caring and engaging."
WVPE 88.1, SOUTH BEND IN

"Mark Dvorak's song book ranges across the American heartland."
BLUE BEAR SCHOOL, SAN FRANCISCO CA

"Funny, passionate, intimate and unforgettable..." OLD TOWN SCHOOL OF FOLK MUSIC, CHICAGO IL



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