



MATTHEW MUTCH STEELTOWN PILGRIM



Singer/songwriter

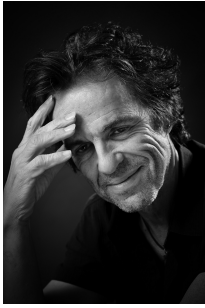
*"I am inspired by lyrics more
than music."*

*When I hear a beautiful, poetic
phrase, I feel very moved and
want to write."*



WWW.MATTHEWMUTCH.COM

Electronic Press Kit



Introducing Matthew Mutch

It's been quite the journey for singer songwriter Matthew Mutch and his latest CD, *Steeltown Pilgrim*.

Earlier this year the Hamilton-based Matthew hiked the Camino de Santiago (in English, it is known as The Way of St. James) in Spain, an 800 km trek, in four weeks. His music, which is reminiscent of Dylan and Cohen, amongst others, reflects that trip.

"Pilgrims walk for a number of reasons, not just those pertaining to religion. It is important to realize some of the lyrics and the artwork are directed at this rather large and ever growing group," Matthew says.

Matthew took his guitar and sang on the trip, which figures quite prominently in this project and Matthew's thinking, right down to the CD artwork.

"The scallop shell above my name is the iconic symbol of the Camino Santiago. That shell will 'jump out' at any pilgrim who sees it," he added.

The first track on the CD is 'Peregrina' (female pilgrim). Melancholy and thought provoking, *Steeltown Pilgrim* is a roots CD. Matthew has been compared to Bob Dylan, Tom Waits and Leonard Cohen though he doesn't consciously try to emulate anyone.

Matthew plays acoustic guitar on *Steeltown Pilgrim*, and is joined by JK Gulley (guitars, mandolin, banjar, harmonica), David Rogers (upright bass), Ray Kitney (drums and percussion), Nick Barclay (piano and organ), J. Richard Hutt (keyboards), Dave Mowat (harmonica), Dennis Keilde (accordion), Shane Guse (strings), plus vocalists Mati Haskell, JK Gulley, and Katalin Puskas.

Steeltown Pilgrim was produced by JK Gulley for Americanada Records.

Visit <http://www.matthewmutch.com>.

For media queries:
Erica Phillips
416-271-5932
ericajp@rogers.com



Matthew Mutch in his own words



On the Journey

"*Steeltown Pilgrim* is about 10 years after my first record. Those years were basically spent just being married and I spent little time focusing on music.
If I could turn back the clock, I would change that.

When the relationship disintegrated, I slowly picked up the guitar and started writing again. From a creative point of view, the marriage collapse was the best thing that could have happened. Writing was my way of coping with the wreckage— the songs just came out."

On Writing

"Sometimes I get deeply moved by a song or lyrics - it's usually just a phrase. I feel amazed that songs or a few words can do that— it's very inspirational, like a challenge really. Generally, I tend to write best when I am not at peace with myself, a lover or whatever— don't write too much when I'm happy.

Writing became therapeutic for me, though not by design. I sat down to write "Black Rose" when I was angry and upset— the song came out sympathetic and supportive. I felt happy and calm once I had finished - but that was never the plan."



Track Listing



Peregrina
The Old Heart
On the Peninsula
John Torrington

Steeltown Trilogy:
Dark in Steeltown
Out in the Window
I Remember
Reprise

Painkiller Blues
Can't Stop These Tears
Black Rose
Dear Friend



Review

Artist: Matthew Mutch • **Album:** *Steeltown Pilgrim* • **Review by:** Matheson Kamin

Canadian-born singer-songwriter Matthew Mutch seems to belong to the American music scene just as much as the Canadian music scene. That seems to be because of his musical influences. In his music, you can hear elements of Tom Waits, Bruce Springsteen, even Randy Newman and James Taylor.

Just like these writer-musicians, Mutch's music seems to tell a tale as you listen to his songs. These songs have been influenced by Mutch's travels and experiences and you can almost experience these travels for yourself as you listen to his music.

To bring his stories to life, Matthew Mutch has created two albums, *Enter* and *Steeltown Pilgrim*. It is the new album of *Steeltown Pilgrim* that Mutch is currently promoting.

To help Mutch bring his music to life, he worked with several talented musicians who gave this wonderful release the dimension it deserved. One of the people who are responsible for the way the album sounds is producer John K Gulley. Along with creating just the right sound for each of the tracks on the album, Gulley also went well beyond his producer duties by adding guitars, banjar (part banjo, part guitar), mandolin and other instruments to the album.

When Matthew Mutch writes his music, he creates the music of each song by combining styles of music. The first song of the new release *Steeltown Pilgrim* is a good example. "Peregrina" takes a healthy dose of the blues and combines it with a Spanish flavor. It is with the addition of Spanish guitar, mandolin and accordion that the real flavor of a Spanish town comes through in the feel of the song.

"On the Peninsula" is one of the strongest songs on the album as many different elements come together to create a song that once again bring Mutch's words about a romantic adventure to life. The featured banjar playing on the track by the album's producer JK Gulley helps give the song just the right amount of flavor to a song that add some exotic texture to the music of the track. Another interesting part to the song is the operatic vocals from Katalin Puskas. It her beautiful vocals that help give the background of the

song some depth to really draw the listener into the song.

The most impressive part of the new release is the section of the album called "Steeltown Trilogy". In much the same way that fellow Canadian Gordon Lightfoot has spent time singing about the waters of the Great Lakes, Mutch has created an opus dedicated to the city of Hamilton, known to the people of Ontario province as "Steeltown". The "Steeltown Trilogy" features three sections: "Dark In Steeltown," which deals with the gritty reality of trying to survive in that area; "Out the Window," which takes the sadness in "Dark in Steeltown" and adds a stronger emotional element as Mutch sings of trying to find love poverty; and "I Remember," which tells of days gone by in "Steeltown" as Mutch was growing up. "Steeltown Trilogy" is a composition, which tells of a dark place full of misery and despair; at least, that's the way it comes across in the ten-minute opus written by Matthew Mutch. Each section of the song has its own sound, but each of these sounds never strays from the folk/blues style that runs through the entire opus.

The track "Can't Stop These Tears" is a song about wishing for better days with a lost love for which he still pines after these many years. On this track, both the music and the lyrics seem very reminiscent of something from Johnny Cash. And the baritone voice from Mutch also brings just a few visions of Cash as Mutch sings the song with a passion that would have made Cash proud.

Matthew Mutch is a true example of a singer-songwriter: The lyrics of any song from Mutch mean as much as the melody when it comes to the songs that Mutch writes. Each song on his new release of *Steeltown Pilgrim* is a story set to music; and the music to each song is full of life and seems to have been thoroughly composed. This type of writing and composing is almost non-existent in today's music industry; so, it's nice to find an example like this every so often.

Review by Matheson Kamin
Rating: 5 stars (out of 5)