



**ARTIST** Matt Hill | **TITLE** 'Return of the Idle Drones'

**LABEL** : Quiet Loner Records | **RELEASE DATE** : October 1st 2021

*"Collection of 'live in the studio' modern protest songs, conceived as a sequel to his 2012 album Greedy Magicians"*

**FORMAT** : CD / Download / Streaming

**FILE UNDER** : Americana / Folk / Protest

**DIGITAL / PHYSICAL** : Exclusive to Bandcamp

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Recorded in two days by **Matt Hill** and long time associate **James Youngjohns** (Last Harbour, Willard Grant Conspiracy) this album is the sound of two musicians sat two metres apart, as they rip through the songs as if they were playing a concert.

That's because this project was conceived as a live album, a sequel to 'Greedy Magicians', Hill's 2012 collection of live protest songs. 'Return of the Idle Drones', covers similar ground with a mix of political comment and social history. Recorded inside a Victorian Mill in the historic Ancoats district of Manchester the energy and subtlety of the sessions has been expertly captured by **Adam Gorman** of The Travelling Band.

"My original plan was to do this as a '10 years on' project recorded in front of a live audience in the same venue, with the same musicians." says Hill, "Sadly the pandemic scuppered that so we did it as a 'live in the studio' album with just me and James. It allowed us a bit more freedom and I've tried to channel some broader musical influences here, such as Randy Newman, Scott Walker or Glen Campbell. "

The original Greedy Magicians album was a turning point for Hill, sending him on a path to becoming a full time artist. That album got critical acclaim (10/10 Americana UK, 5/5 Maverick), led to a Glastonbury appearance with Billy Bragg and eventually to Hill becoming Songwriter-in- Residence in a museum.

There are songs here about the past and the present. **Strike** is about the Match Women's strike of 1888 whilst **Talking it out** is about today's billionaires, oligarchs and the super-rich. Aside from social comment there are personal stories too – the middle aged person struggling to work whilst chronically ill (**Times are getting tough**) or the soldier and his wife trying to settle back to normality in post-war Britain (**Making sense of the war**).

With his signature blend of social history, storytelling, humour and wordplay, Hill has crafted another compelling collection of modern day protest songs.

**Matt Hill** is a storytelling singer-songwriter who offers a British take on americana/folk. Since his debut as 'Quiet Loner' in 2004 he's toured extensively across the UK and Europe. Career highs include a Glastonbury songwriters circle with Billy Bragg and Amanda Palmer, radio play on BBC6 Music and in 2004 and 2010 UK Americana chart number one albums.

More recently his work as a community artist has included a year long songwriting residency in a museum, several album co-written with people at a homeless project and a stint as musician-in-residence in a prison.

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An incredibly talented writer. An absolute gem **MORNING STAR 2017 ALBUM OF THE YEAR**

If Matt Hill never writes or sings another song ever again he can die a happy man for creating this masterpiece. **ROCKING MAGPIE**



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Hi-res photos, cover art image, song by song notes, press quotes & full biog.