

SIMON MAGGS & PEOPLE LIKE US

Literate, melodic, indie-tinged folk

The essence of northern kitchen-sink indie at its best. *The Musical Road*

Simon Maggs douses us with folk poetry. Listen now! *Apollo's Harp*

For fans of indie-folk and those who appreciate music that carries a message. *Rotate Magazine*

Simon Maggs and People Like Us are a Hampshire-based band with roots stretching across the UK. The lineup features Wigan's Simon Maggs (guitar & vocals) and Gary Winstanley (guitar), Yorkshireman Jon Watkins (drums), and Hampshire locals Kev Smith (bass) and Chris Bluemel (violin & keys) (with occasional appearances from the wider People Like Us family, Mike Vaughan and Dan Street).



Playing as a full band, solo or as stripped back 2 and 3 piece lineups of guitar and violin for smaller venues.

Their sound is a rich blend of carefully crafted, literate, melodic indie-tinged folk, marked by wry lyrical storytelling rich with themes

drawn from everyday life — sometimes tender, sometimes biting, sometimes amusing, always relatable.



Weaving in a little jangly guitar and violin with the occasional touch of kitchen sink drama and protest, inspiration comes from the likes of Paul Heaton, Billy Bragg, The Smiths, Martin Stephenson, John Bramwell and Frank Turner.

The band's name is a play on a phrase in the 1960 David Storey kitchen sink novel (and later Lindsay Anderson film) *This Sporting Life*, celebrating solidarity, community and the ordinary.

Spotify:

<https://open.spotify.com/artist/43L1RnUTs4elaWJRFFJ0Y3?si=SSRGUqDFQbSi6dkYg33xyQ>

Bandcamp:

<https://simonmaggspeoplelikeus.bandcamp.com/>

Video: [Video Clip](#)

Web:

www.simonmaggspeoplelikeus.com

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/simonmaggsmusic/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SimonMaggsPeopleLikeUs>

Contact:

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Recent Releases

The Ocean [EP]

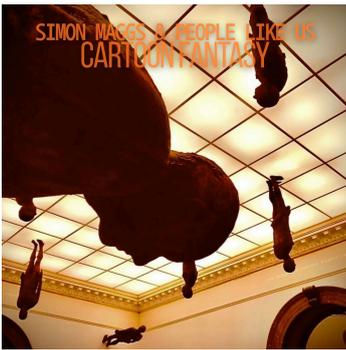


A six-song EP about hesitation, hindsight and the moments where life could've gone another way. Clean guitars, strings and pedal steel carry deceptively cheerful melodies, while the songs themselves wrestle with regret, nostalgia and quiet responsibility.

From sliding-doors decisions inspired by Wile E. Coyote's glance downward, to generational apologies, drifting friendships, teenage memories of mixtapes and payphones and the stubborn refusal to play crowd-pleasing covers, the EP balances charm with emotional bruises.

Track listing: Cartoon Fantasy; The Ocean; Baby Boomers; One For The Teenagers; Alternate Endings; I'll Not Play Wonderwall.

Cartoon Fantasy



“Hesitation comes before the fall.”

“Seize the day.”

“Cartoon Fantasy” lives in the space between these two ideas—where doubt meets daring and the next step could change everything.

Sparked by the quietly profound question, *“What would’ve happened if Wile E. Coyote had never looked down?”* the track captures that charged instant before reality snaps into place: the sliding-doors moment where following your heart might just pay off and overthinking certainly will not.

Musically, the song carries the band’s unmistakable charm—bright, breezy, and deceptively cheerful on the surface, with guitar, violin, and pedal steel all brimming with upbeat optimism. But the lyrics tug in the opposite direction: emotionally bruised, reflective and threaded with a regret that lingers beneath the melody.

Next Time Around



An exciting (if temporary) shift from the band’s signature sound. Anchored by a tight, driving rhythm section - Kev on bass and with Mike Vaughan this time on drums - the song pulses with infectious energy, while Gary’s funky guitar licks and Chris’ shimmering keys add layers of retro charm. Topping it all off, the incredible Em Cotton brings a dose of vocal magic on backing vocals, adding depth and undeniable sparkle to the mix. The result is an alchemy created by an indie-folk band accidentally writing a disco banger that’s as reflective as it is danceable.

While the sound may be sunnier and the upbeat groove danceable, lyrically it’s still unmistakably Simon Maggs & People Like Us - a poetic reflection on what ifs, maybes, and second chances.

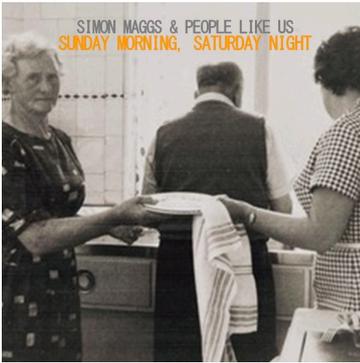
One For The Teenagers



For anyone who’s ever bought a record from white goods store, rented a video from their local corner shop or waited far too long for Boots to develop their holiday snaps.

An energetic and nostalgia laden tale of mix tapes, relationships and the perils of not having enough loose change for a pay phone.

Sunday Morning Saturday Night

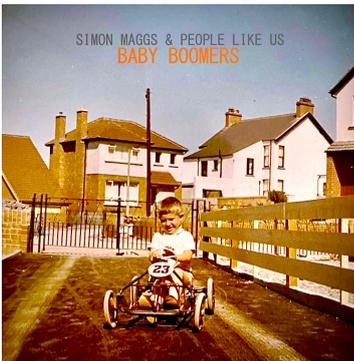


It's over half a century since Ken Loach's influential BBC Play for Today *Kathy Come Home* was first broadcast and homelessness is again rising.

Shaped by Simon's years of work in social housing and the kitchen sink drama novels his enlightened English teachers championed. With lyrical nods to rough sleeping, Grenfell, and the timeless protest songs of Pete Seeger that once echoed from his parents' radiogram, the song weaves social conscience with personal reflection — a modern echo of the folk tradition.

Delicate acoustic guitar finger-picking contrasts with a returning, haunting electric guitar riff, creating a beautifully melancholic backdrop to the thoughtful, literate lyrics.

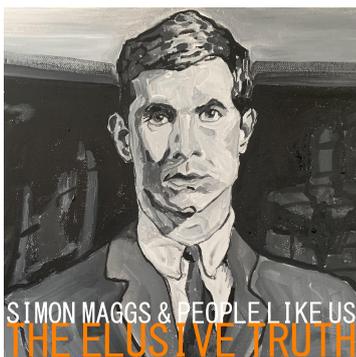
Baby Boomers



An apology to Millennials and Gen. Zs and all young people for the uncertain world that previous generations have created.

Baby Boomers' jaunty waltz rhythms, interlaced with guitar, violin and pedal steel, contrasts with wry, witty lyrics that tell a story of let down and dawning truths.

The Elusive Truth [EP]



The EP title echoes themes which run through several songs, including the title track, *Josef K*, *Two Legs Better* (now dubbed the “Liz Song” by many fans) and *Do As I Say*.

Careful What You Wish For's up-tempo all out indie-jangle contrasts with the acoustic *Office Conversations* which pokes fun at the familiarity, mundanity and strangeness of workaday life.

Joy Division On The Radio is a rose-tinted love letter to much changed parts of the North West of England - “no real ale pubs just creative hubs”.

Track Listing: *Josef K*; *Careful What You Wish For*; *Office Conversations*; *Two Legs Better*; *Do As I Say*; *Joy Division On The Radio*.

(Artwork by Patrick Connor)

Careful What You Wish For



Full of upbeat indie jangle and summer vibes!

Roller coasters - real and metaphorical - Blackpool sands and buying records to lift the mood, but, “what kind of loving makes any sense” (thanks Stan Barstow).

Josef K



Think the Kafka novel *The Trial* rather than the excellent Postcard Records Scottish post-punk band.

For those who might want to quickly up their agitation levels by consolidating protest song themes into handy bite size form (if there is such a person!). A little ‘60s West Coast bounce entwined with activism (though does renaming your student bar count?) and change, reflecting how many things have moved on for the better, but that there’s still so much left to say.

(Artwork by Patrick Connor)

The Art of Being Alone [EP]



The band's debut EP. The title track is a melodic and melancholy reflection on being at the centre of everything while not being part of anything. *After The Grand* tells of the joys of small clubs and grassroots music venues (think Pemps in Wigan, The Railway in Winchester); *Bookshop Sunset* the romance of bookshops (who is Kate and is she real?) With *Last Man Standing* adds some anthemic rockabilly tinged protest.

Track Listing; Bookshop Sunset; The Art of Being Alone; After the Grand; Last Man Standing.



