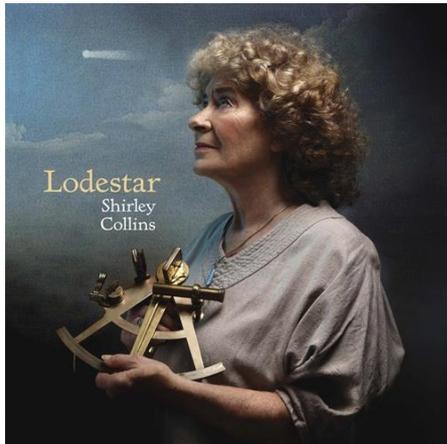




# IRASCIBLE MUSIC



## SHIRLEY COLLINS (UK)

### *Lodestar*

Label: Domino

Release Date: 04.11.2016

Web: [www.shirleycollins.co.uk](http://www.shirleycollins.co.uk)

EPK: [irascible.ch/de/releases/shirley-collins/lodestar](http://irascible.ch/de/releases/shirley-collins/lodestar)

Shirley Collins – legendary folk singer and one of England’s most respected song collectors – has announced her return to recording after 38 years. With the new album, «Lodestar», Shirley has created the unlikeliest release of the century so far. «Lodestar» is a collection of English, American and Cajun songs dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> Century to the 1950s, recorded at Shirley’s home in Lewes by Stephen Thrower and Ossian Brown of Cyclobe and produced and musically directed by Ian Kearey.

Born in Hastings in 1935, Shirley was fascinated by folk songs as she was growing up, songs she heard on the radio or sung by her grandparents in Anderson shelters. She left home for London to immerse herself in the burgeoning folk scene; at a party held by Ewan MacColl she met Alan Lomax, and in 1959 she joined him in the USA on the renowned field trip ‘Southern Journey’, recording American folk songs and blues, a formative journey for her personally and professionally. On her return to England, Shirley cemented her role at the forefront of the Folk Revival, recording over a dozen albums including the influential «Folk Roots», «New Routes» and «No Roses», from which The Albion Country Band was formed. However, in the 1980s, Shirley lost her singing voice – later diagnosed as a form of dysphonia - and withdrew from performing live. It was only in 2014, after coaxing from David Tibet (Current 93), that Shirley sang in public for the first time since 1982. Though Shirley Collins (MBE) has been absent from the music scene for many years, her impact has not diminished, the likes of Graham Coxon, Jonny Greenwood, Stewart Lee and Angel Olsen laud her and a documentary «The Ballad of Shirley Collins» is currently in progress this year. Now Shirley Collins has sung once more (with a mischievous delight in defeating expectation), the accepted canon of her great recordings will have to be comprehensively recalibrated, yet again.

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