

NOT MURDERED

***Yesterday's Not Here* project – the genius of Pete Shelley, reimagined.**

Pete Shelley: 1955 – 2018

Pete Shelley was a hugely prolific and diverse songwriter but best known as the frontman of seminal punk rock band Buzzcocks and as the writer of a notable string of hits of the late 70s. While widely recognised for these songs, he was an innovative and productive songwriter with a published catalogue of over 120 songs to his credit. Musically, he was a man of diverse tastes and this is reflected in his own work. While he was famous for short, sharp, bittersweet pop-punk songs, his canon also incorporated experimental electronica and dance music. In all that he did, he was a quietly understated pioneer.

Lyrically, Pete explored the universal human themes and was never constrained by any perceived standpoint his gender afforded him. Quite the opposite. His songs spoke of love, longing and loss in a way that any human being could relate to. This relatability resonated deeply with fans and admirers. Everything Pete wrote was totally from the heart, but he also touched on the philosophical and often darker sides of human existence. He did not shy away from those themes to maintain some kind of spurious commercial appeal.

His openness and curiosity about the human condition led to many friendships with those who first came to know of him through his music. He was a steadfast friend to those he allowed in, accessible in a way few that touched the heights he did could ever be. He did not consider himself famous and was modest about his accomplishments. In purely musical terms, his songs and his way of doing things inspired generations of musicians around the world.

Pete's untimely death in 2018 robbed musical life of a highly influential and well-respected figure. To celebrate his legacy and help keep it alive, the *Yesterday's Not Here* project was devised to compile an affectionate tribute through the re-recording of his songs by his fans and admirers.

NOT MURDERED

The project is managed by the Buzzcocks fan community Secret Public. Artists were invited to contribute their interpretation of a Pete Shelley song to create a tribute album. As the viability of the project became apparent, it became obvious that it should work with the Pete Shelley Memorial Campaign, to help to contribute to the terrific work being achieved by the campaign in funding a lasting memorial to Pete in his home town of Leigh.

The project's first output was a physical 7" clear vinyl Klammer/The White Ribbons single, due for release mid-November on Not Murdered Records. The pre-order for this limited edition pressing with never-to-be-repeated prints of Pete Shelley portraits by Buzzcocks' photographer Steve White sold out in five hours, prompting plans for a re-pressing to satisfy demand. There will probably be at least one further physical single.

Bands that have contributed tracks are (with more on the way):

- Garka Lines
- Here Are The Young Men & Uncle Peanut
- Ian Fourcandles
- Jason Cutthroat
- Johnny Skullknuckles
- Johnny Cashpoint
- Kenny Munns
- Kid Klumsy
- Klammer
- Mad Mad Judy
- MITZYKATZIK
- Negative Response
- Pete Bentham & Sheepy
- RoBoTaLiEn
- Shuggerbite
- The Lengthmen
- The White Ribbons
- UkePunk

NOT MURDERED

The full album of at least 20 tracks, initially a digital download, is being prepared for a pre-Christmas release and will cost £15. Selected individual digital tracks, priced at £1 a download, will be released in the run-up to the full album release. Fittingly, the tracks submitted echo Pete's musical tastes and the album will be as diverse and intriguing as his own career – a true and affectionate reflection of the man and his music.

The album artwork is being designed by Northwest artist Louie Shelley (no relation), designer of Pete's stage shirts, and will retain recognisable continuity with that aspect of his stage persona.

Speaking of the project, and echoing a sentiment expressed many times by contributors. Klammer's Steve Whitfield says:

"It's a privilege to be involved in a project to help fund a memorial for one of the most talented and important songwriters of his generation, in fact from any generation."

The White Ribbons' Brian Mitchell adds:

"Bloody amazed to even be considered for this project when one stops to think about the legacy that Pete left. We won't offer our thoughts as we could be here forever listing why we are 'happy as Larry' (whoever he is) to be involved and included. Well why wouldn't you be?"

The album infrastructure is provided by Not Murdered Records, a new label established to support and promote DIY bands and artists. All profits from the project go to the Pete Shelley Memorial campaign.

NOT MURDERED

Links:

www.yesterdaysnothere.co.uk

<https://notmurderedrecords.bandcamp.com/album/yesterdays-not-here>

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/peteshelleymemorial>

<https://www.peteshelleymemorial.com/>

Contacts

secretpublic@buzzcocks.com

notmurderedrecords@gmail.com

07483 296423