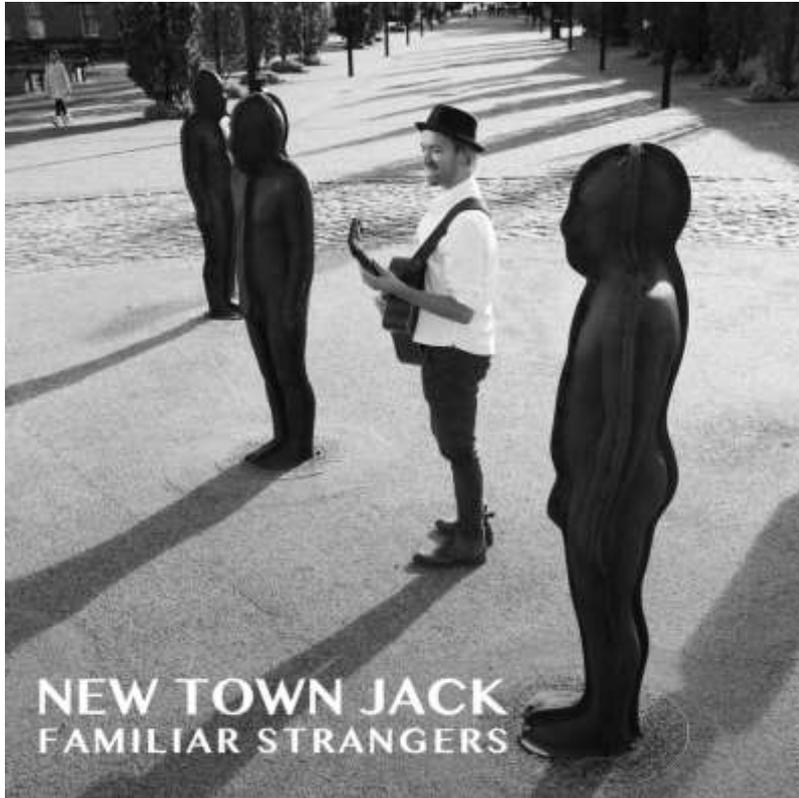


NEW TOWN JACK



Title: **Familiar Strangers**

Label: **Unsigned**

Release Date: **21st November 2018**

Web: newtownjack.co.uk

Familiar Strangers is the debut output of New Town Jack, an acoustic folk singer songwriter likened to James Taylor/Paul Simon. Familiar Strangers is composed of stranger tales – songs in the theme of strangers and their deep impact on an individual. Each song a story of their own, they all explore different characters and their own experiences with strangers.

The idea for the EP first started when writing '**Change The Rules**', a track about a character who meets someone only to find them fade into a stranger all of a sudden. As the lyrics tell of this building relationship, so does the instrumentation – the main acoustic guitar being complimented by electric guitar, ukulele and light percussion. Once the song's foundations were written, this began a voyage for further songs exploring strangers and their mystery.

Familiar Strangers is an EP about mystery and discovery, exploring the grey area between them. It aims to ask important questions about understanding people and the intentional and unintentional barriers put up in the way.

Intentional barriers are explored in '**Let Me Be**', a stripped back track written about a penniless punk that a rich Duchess takes a fancy too. Conflicted by losing his street cred but

also having his own true feelings for her, he becomes so in denial of these that he desperately wishes to become a stranger of his own creation. With only a bare acoustic backing, the song has its own conflict against the punk-rock lyrics, which contrast against the familiar sounds of a traditional folk song.

'Invisible Amelia' acts as the finale to the EP, encompassing almost all of the other instrumentation used on the EP in the one song alone. It tells the tale of a shy reclusive friend, whose great presence in people's lives is so important that her reveal could save the town from flooding. Incoming waves are represented by a build-up of electric guitars, and as they get closer, the singer makes a final plea for Amelia to reveal herself once and for all.

Familiar Strangers was recorded in late 2018 back where it all began for New Town Jack – Southampton, Hampshire. Starting out as a blues harmonica act in 2011, New Town Jack became soaked in the world of folk music shortly after, attending and playing at a variety of folk festivals in Hampshire and Dorset. Since falling in love with singer-songwriters such as James Taylor, Paul Simon and Gillian Welch, his style has changed even more, encompassing a variety of styles not just in 'Familiar Strangers' but also in his live act. The recording of Familiar Strangers was completed in Southampton's 'Untapped Talent' studios, with production and mixing support provided by Matt O'Donnell, a talented sound engineer who has worked with many established folk acts such as Cordicella and Grant Sharkey to name a few.

Currently, New Town Jack is performing gigs in Oxfordshire, Hampshire & Dorset whilst organising a tour for Summer 2019, which will include a live band performing tracks from 'Familiar Strangers' and even more songs.