

Artist: Withered Hand  
Title: Good News  
Label: SL Records  
Release Date:  
Cat No:  
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**Keenly awaited by followers of Edinburgh's recent musical renaissance, *Good News* is the debut album from the city's premier antifolk quartet, Withered Hand.**

Made possible through support from the Scottish Arts Council, the album has been recorded with cult American producer Kramer (Galaxie 500 / Low / Daniel Johnston), who first contacted songwriter Dan Willson several years ago after hearing his scratchy, home-recorded demos online.

Markedly more lush and polished than those early recordings, *Good News* sees Willson augmenting his regular band – Neil Pennycook (Meursault), Alun Thomas (The Leg) and Hannah Shepherd – with the voices of local celebrity Bart Owl (eagleowl) and Lone Pigeon/Aliens collaborator Jo Foster.

*'I don't need lights on my push-bike – my light comes from inside.'*

After years contentedly ploughing their own furrow within Edinburgh's traditionally self-contained pop underground, Withered Hand have lately been enjoying gathering critical acclaim from farther afield. Regular airplay from the likes of Gideon Coe, Marc Riley, Tom Robinson, Vic Galloway and Rob Da Bank has led to live sessions being recorded for BBC Radio Scotland and BBC 6Music; and in recent months the band have been invited to play at festivals all over the country, including Fence Records' Homegame, Triptych, The Tennents Mutual, and Edinburgh's own Edge Festival.

*'Lord, won't you deliver me from the wave machine and the transparent bikini?'*

The album is titled *Good News* in reference to Willson's evangelical Christian upbringing – and, accordingly, a theme of spiritual confliction runs through many of these songs. A few ('Religious Songs', 'I Am Nothing', 'No Cigarettes') will be familiar from the band's first two EPs; the rest are previously unreleased. Two tracks are covers: 'Joy' was originally recorded by one of drummer Alun's previous bands, Desc, and 'Hard-on' by Philadelphiaian songwriter Charles Latham.

This record marks a new phase in the development of an extraordinary songwriter and a much-loved Edinburgh institution. The band will be promoting its release with several Edinburgh shows in August and September and a Scottish tour later in the year.

**Praise for Withered Hand's *You're Not Alone* EP (Fence/SL, May 2009):**

'Gorgeous, and a must for modern folk fans.' (The Skinny, June 2009)

'At times painfully honest and introspective, Willson's folk pop style marks him as an artist with a lot to say, and someone who manages to speak with a refreshing intelligence, placing him at the pinnacle of Edinburgh's live music scene as a true must-see act.' (The Scotsman, June 2009)

'My favourite new Scottish artist.' (Said The Gramophone, Canada, May 2009)