



t.k. bollinger
the tighter you hold onto
something the more likely
IT WILL FALL APART
IN YOUR HANDS

WORLD WIDE Digital Release Date: 31.07.18
LISTEN: Official Audio on YouTube

<http://bit.ly/TKtYTube>

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The music of *t.k. bollinger* is a sweetly tortured fusion of *Doom Blues*, *Gothic Country* and *post apocalyptic Gregorian Chant*. A predominantly solo artist, his songs speak of the horror and the hope that lies in a world where each of us is forced to find our own meaning and purpose. Plaintive melodies meet literate lyrics, all played and sung in bollinger's idiosyncratic style and voice.

influences

The music of t.k. bollinger is mined from the same dark vein as such late 20th century Australian underground artists as *The Birthday Party/Nick Cave*, *The Wreckery*, and *Crime and the City Solution*. It blends *Gothic Country* with *Folk*, *Punk Rock* and *Blues*. Bollinger's musical influences are not only home grown. He derives his inspiration from many sources, including *Cow Punk/Alt country* (*Country Teasers*, *16 Horsepower*) *Dark Folk* (*Qntal*, *Elliot Smith*, *Jason Molina*), *Sad Pop* (*Weyes Blood*) and *Americana* (*Gillian Welch*); a mish mash of genre that revolves around the ugly twin of Happiness, Sadness. If any single word sums up his sound, it would be **Sadcore**. Bollinger says, "If you can find beauty and hope in sadness, then you can find it anywhere."

the music

– an overview of the songs on this album.

Living God: Have you ever woken from a beautiful dream and been struck with the profundity of the loss that you felt afterwards? You are in good company. Dream on sweet soul but learn to let go of your unconscious delights, because while you may pine, others will no doubt sell their souls to possess the fancies that the living god has dangled before their eyes.

Now or Never: This is a tale about Gunna who's dream is, "I'm gunna be a big doom blues singer one day." We know your real name, Gunna.

Colour By Numbers: Colours change depending on the light. And when we paint the world in colours that are not our own, we are likely to feel disappointed with the life that is the result. Therefore have the courage to choose your own palette, or you may end up as a protagonist in a t.k. bollinger song.

Lurking (Help Me Through The Day): Even if the journey of life is a road to nowhere, there are things that make it worth the struggle and give the challenge meaning. Those things are personal, not necessarily universally profound, but they help us make it through the day.



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Compassion Fatigue: As the tech world so wisely reminds us, failure and innovation are inextricably linked. Though a source of frustration, banging your head against a problem, while futile at times, can sometimes uncover solutions both startling and new. However what happens when the flame that drives us dies, and yet the momentum remains? The tyres continue to roll, but it's as though nobody is holding the wheel.

Colour Blind: In moments of trepidation we must balance our ability to help with our ability to cope. As the laminated card before you says, put your own mask on before assisting other passengers.

Get it Right: A portrait of the artist as an old man. Here we find our song's protagonist, having exhausted all options, leading the rallying cry of all sad bastards everywhere "Give up. Lay down and take a nap!" Hopefully upon waking things will at least seem easier.

Where to Now: Do you have all the answers? Then we'd love to hear from you because sometimes it seems this world is hurtling from one anticlimax to the another.

The Least of All Possible Worlds: Get ready for some metaphysics. If, as some believe, every moment of choice involves the coalescence of one path, and the separation of that reality from all the other possible choices we did not make, what then is authentic or true reality? Does some aspect of us continue to live a different life from the one we live, going on to make their own choices that echo back to us through quantum entanglement, giving us snap shots of paths we refused to take and worlds we can only now see evaporate in dreams?

Trajectories (In Freefall): If we have been truly set adrift, untethered from certainties and ideologies, only our own habits and choices are left to direct us on our path through life. Are we trajectories in freefall? Making meaning is now a game we all need to play.





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biography

As a long-time confirmed sad sack and veteran tiller of doom, t.k. bollinger has been writing and recording songs since the grunge plague of 1991. He cut his teeth mainly as a back seat driver, playing drums for *Rifled Slug* and later for the much-ignored acid-folk combo, *The Stinking Badger of Java*.

He defected briefly to electronica at the end of the millennium, but saw the error of his ways while driving through the deserts of Australia in 2004. Collecting songs and impressions on his way to the top-end caused him to strip back his material and to begin playing an idiosyncratic style of country blues. These songs were captured in 3 recording collections. His early song writing and sadcore folk leanings were documented on 2005's *My Delicate Melancholy Devotion*. 2007's live to tape *Sad City Twilight Demo* captured bollinger in his natural raw and emotive state. The pinnacle of this phase of Bollinger's rebirth into personal song writing was 2011's more polished studio offering *A Wide Road Called Sorrow*. All of these were self funded digital releases.

Not content to leave things there, and to cries of Judas, he went electric again in 2011, jamming with **Vis Ortis** and **R.S. Amor**, two long time friends and collaborators. The ensuing musical apoplexy coalesced into *t.k. bollinger and that sinking feeling*. They released their first album, *A Catalogue of Woe*, in August 2014. Upon it's release, the rest of his band was so appalled that they moved to Tasmania and now seek to redeem themselves whilst crafting the log awaited sequel *Doom Blues*.

While patching things up, via Ouija board, Bollinger took it upon himself to complete what emerged as his bumper opus, *Shy Ghosts*. Released in January 2016, it is a collection of slow, delicately arranged songs that spoke of sorrow and loss, dementia and decay, fog and fear.

In 2017 bollinger released, *What's Left Now You Are Dead to Me*. Still in bollinger's confessional style but with lush arrangements it proved to be more hopeful collection of songs. This was followed by the more coherent collection of 10 songs in 2018, *The Tighter You Hold Onto Something The More Likely It Will Fall Apart In Your Hands*.

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social media

<https://twitter.com/tkbollinger>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/tkbollingermusic>

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



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testimonial – Previous Critical Reaction for bollinger’s work

“Equal parts mystifying and beautiful, t.k. bollinger has created an album that forces the listener to ponder the most intricate and infinite of questions, without ever promising any answers. It’s a rare class of music that may have been built from one man’s isolation and tormented exploration, but it was created so that we might all find something bold and new within ourselves. All we can hope is that bollinger has more dark realms that he can explore and more emotive music that he can bring to life.”

Thomas Bedward - broken8records.com

“I’m overwhelmed by what Mr. Bollinger has achieved. This is sadcore of the highest carat. Making this kind of music is a difficult balancing act. Sad songs without honesty is just embarrassing. However, there’s no lack of honesty here. In fact, t.k. bollinger sings so emphatically on the album that it feels like he is the last man left on the planet. Naked, tormented and not overly beautiful, but with a heart-felt presence.”

The Ambassador - [Swedish Embassy of Gothic Country](http://swedishembassyofgothiccountry.com)

“Not an album for everyone, And not for all the moments of the day - or life - but if you have ever more or less direct contact with life’s pain, in any of its forms, you will not be led astray. Minimalist, essential, dark, beautiful.”

Mauro Catena - [the pit of the damned](http://thepitofthedamned.com)

Community Reaction

Bollinger has been slowly gathering a loyal group of listeners around him who share his downbeat and sadcore musical passion. This group meet in the dark alleys of social media to discuss their own dark tastes. The following quotes were given freely, without bribery or duress:

“And I thought I knew what sadness was.” – Alex DiFrancesco

“TK’s music is the perfect soundtrack for when you feel sad about things in your life.” – Daisy Walton

“Your go-to antidote for happiness. Keep those feel-goods in the basement where they belong with a heaping dose of sadcore from Dr Bollinger.” – Jeremy Holcombe

“T. K. portrays melancholic lyrics and sounds through true life stories, touching us to the very core of existence in a cynical world.” – Christina Willis

“Sadness is rebellion” – Johan Carlsson



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The tail of the Ouroboros

– Murky Dismal (*Outside Rainbow Land* – June '18)

This new album, from Melbourne mope-master t.k. bollinger, is a lush affair. While still firmly anchored in the SADS, bollinger has groomed and refined his blues, adding more rich sonic texture, to seduce us more emphatically to share in his love affair with minor keys and rich, literate lyrical melodies. With a name like *The Tighter You Hold Onto Something The More Likely It Will Fall Apart In Your Hands*, you'd better hope that he succeeds, or else one may be tempted to label him in ways best left to more unsavoury critics.

Bollinger is a song-writer, as opposed to a musical entertainer, so it's probably best to examine the merit of this album, through the quality of his song craft. Bollinger is not one to give easy answers to the riddles he poses in his songs. That is when he is giving any answers at all. Many of his songs seem to explore the post-modern dilemma of inauthenticity and meaninglessness as sad but also necessary. It's as though he has heard that certainty is dead, yet the magnitude of this realisation is but the fuel for him to kick our collective grief into high gear in order to learn what lies on the other side.



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Is sadness, as some would say, a bottomless pit, or is it the tail of the Ouroboros and in order to reach the head, and some understanding of its function, is it quicker to follow where it leads, not go back the way we came? Do we reach understanding not by running towards the light, but by facing the darkness? Still, these are not adventures for the faint hearted. It's clear that this is music that expects the listener to make an effort – hardcore sadcore – if such a thing is possible. To spare the tender ears and fragile egos of the young, these songs probably require trigger warnings.

That being said, this music is not one big gloomfest. Certainly there are moments of despair, but bollinger has a gentle hand, and a soothing voice, and even in the darkness, there is always sound to guide you to a place of comfort. Comfort may not be the edgy effect that we expect from dark or challenging music, but it is what bollinger seeks to provide. His songs are meant as balms as much as they are designed to cauterise the wounds of sorrow. Like anyone who sings from lived experience: the fear, the grief, the worry and the hope all comes across as real, as does the promise that there is some reason, some explanation for the suffering we endure. However it is a reason that we must glean for ourselves. No priest in a pulpit, nor rock star on a stage can offer us any lasting answers. If, and this is a big if, there are answers to our deep existential woes, it is up to us, the seeker, to find and understand them.

So what is the point then of listening to bollinger's tales of the lost? If anything, these songs are sign-posts of things we may find along the way. They are comforting tales to help us keep the faith that there is a way through, after all tales are ultimately told by survivors. Although we may find sad, forlorn and abandoned things, strewn along the path we tread through these songs, if it's remembered that our dejected emotions are also essential to survival, then the beauty and profundity of sadness makes more sense. Sadness beacons an ending, but it also promises a new beginning – transformation. We listen to sad songs not only to find comfort for ourselves, but to become more compassionate to the suffering of others. All things are fleeting, so enjoy them while you have them, but remember, as bollinger urges us, hold them gently or else they may get crushed in our hands and then they, and we, will be lost as well.