

with Death

Or, Conversations





Zines about Kentucky Folk songs 🥠

Little Omie Wise Song suggestions I've Endured Barbry Ellen The Falcon

History of the various versions of the song. https://mainlynorfolk.info/peter.bellamy/ songs/conversationwithdeath.html Lyrics and tabs.

Wiki article on the song and its history https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/O_Death https://weeniecampbell.com/yabbse/ index.php?topic=9676.0

Short bio of Dock Boggs. day-dock-boggs-oh-death/

blog.wordpress.com/2023/03/26/song-of-the-

thelisteningpost-

References:



was a self-titled effort issued in 1964.

modal tuning and developed a technique which was considered "a style possessed He played several songs in a lower Dby no other recorded player!"

strings and playing one of the other three volves picking upwards on the first two style known as up-picking, which in-



"frailing", he While Boggs clawhammer was familiar played in a typically style, or

strings with the thumb. Folkways Records) and only then did he really get chance to dedicate his time to records he recorded for Folkways which Oh Death appeared on one of the first

Boggs is considered ing as a coal miner. lot of his life work-Moran Lee "Dock" though he spent a a pioneering folk musician, even

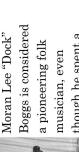


He was signed to Brunswick Records for

a short period of time in the late 1920's,

out it would take another 30 years for

him to be rediscovered (this time by



on their WildGoose CD Return Journey. He noted: known as Rattle on the Stovepipe) sang Oh Death in 2002 Dave Arthur with Pete Cooper and Chris Moreton (later

Boggs who had a predilection for dismal sounding numaround in Britain since the late 16th century. The vercomparatively recent American manifestation) has been sion here was inspired by Virginia banjo-picker Dock "The ballad Death and the Lady (of which Oh Death is a

daughter, Caitlin:" in-law, aged 27, to cancer: she left a three-year old On a personal note I find one verse in the old broadside versions particularly poignant, having lost my daughter-

> "The children's prayed, the preacher preached, the time "Oh Death", someone would pray, "Could you call some

other day?"

of mercy is out of your reach."

notes commented:

Legacy album Girl of Constant Sorrow. The album sleeve Sarah Ogan Gunning sang Oh, Death in 1965 on her Folk

gathering herbs in the woods. One day she wandered

"Elizabeth, her mother, used to sing this sad song while

abandoned the still (but only temporarily). took Aunt Lizzie to be a ghost and in terrible fright near a concealed underground still. The moonshiners ger on 26 June 1963.

Dock Boggs of Norton, Virginia, sang Oh Death to Mike See contexts, including films, video games, and television. in the region. The song has been covered in a variety of was likely taken or adapted from folk songs already existing to the musician and Baptist preacher Lloyd Chandler, but it the Roud Folk Song Index. The song is generally attributed traditional Appalachian folk song, listed as number 4933 in "O Death", also known as "A Conversation with Death", is a

Grant me but this, and I will ask no more Fain would I stay, if thou my life wilt spare Death, be not so severe, let me obtair I'd live to see her wed, whom I adore I have a daughter beautiful and fair, A little longer time to live and reign



REFRAIN REPEAT

What is this that I can see with icy hands taking hold on

"I am Death and none can excel, I'll open the door to

Heaven or Hell."

Can't you spare me over 'til another year Please spare me over 'til another year

Oh Death, Oh Death

REFRAIN: Oh Death, Oh Death

My Mother come to my bed, place a cold towel upon my

My head is warm, my feet is cold, Death is moving upor my soul

"Oh Death, how you treating me, you close my eyes so l can't see

You hurt my body, you make me cold, you ruin my life right out of my soul."

REFRAIN REPEAT

"Oh Death, consider my age, please don't take me at this

My wealth is all at your command, if you will move your icy hand."

"The old, the young, the rich or poor, are all alike with

"Death, I come, take the soul, leave the body and leave it

To drop the flesh off of the frame, the earth and worm

both have a claim."

Close your eyes so you can't see, this very hour come go "I'll fix your feet so you can't walk, I'll lock your jaw so

with me."

you can't talk

No wealth, no land, no silver, no gold--nothing satisfy me