

# Mekons +Freakwater = **FREAKONS**

**Mekons** (beloved, mythical British rabble-rousing beast) and **Freakwater** (also beloved, yet often derided as godmothers of Alt-Country) have allied their sundry song & dance talents for the forces of good. Together they are **FREAKONS**.

Oddly, Freakwater and Mekons were bound to each other at the start, by the rich seam of Anthracite coal running the width of the Atlantic Ocean from Wales to the Appalachian Mountains. The music and culture of mineral resource extraction, ecological disaster, and worker exploitation are their shared heritage. FREAKONS, the eponymously-titled album to be released March 22, 2022 (Fluff & Gravy Records), is the first fruit of this visionary musical union.

The Mekons and Freakwater have been friends for decades, forged in the punk rock/art school crucibles of late '70s Leeds and mid '80s Louisville respectively. Both bands mined British folk and American classic country music for three-chord songs whose lyrics fit the nihilism or political rage or outlandish joy of the moment. Many of these songs were about coal mining. Traditional songs about heroic union organizers, deadly mine disasters, wailing orphans, or mining's grim history of economic and ecological devastation fit seamlessly alongside each band's original material. This is where FREAKONS were born, from the very bowels of the earth.

Mekons' **Jon Langford** & **Sally Timms** and Freakwater's **Janet Beveridge Bean** & **Catherine Irwin** are joined here by the stellar string and vocal harmonies of **Jean Cook** (*Ida, Tara Jane O'Neil, Skull Orchard*) and **Anna Krippenstapel** (*The Other Years, Joan Shelley, Freakwater*), along with special guest, the beloved guitar genius **Jim Elkington** (*Jeff Tweedy, Richard Thompson, Eleventh Dream Day, Horse's Ha, Skull Orchard, Freakwater, The Zincs*).



Release Date: March 25, 2021

Dark Lords Of The Mine.....	3:55
<b>Chestnut Blight.....</b>	<b>2:53</b>
Abernant 84/85.....	2:05
Judy Belle Thompson.....	4:07
Canaries.....	3:52
<b>Blackleg Miner.....</b>	<b>2:43</b>
<b>*Phoebe Snow.....</b>	<b>3:43</b>
The Mannington Mine Disaster.....	3:44
<b>Never Thought I'd See The Day.....</b>	<b>2:17</b>
<b>Dreadful Memories.....</b>	<b>2:19</b>
Coorie Doon.....	3:34
Blue Scars Of A Miner.....	2:37

\*FCC Warning (clean version available)



For more info contact [john@fluffandgravy.com](mailto:john@fluffandgravy.com)