

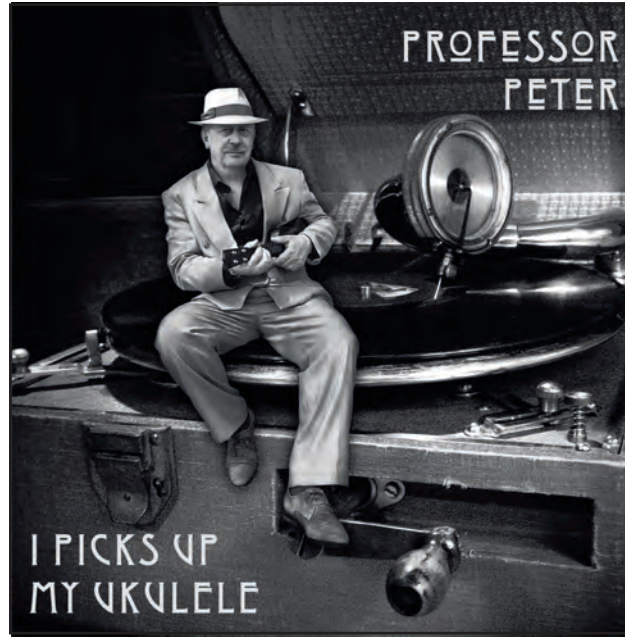
CD Review

by Andy Senior

I Picks Up My Ukulele
Professor Peter
www.profp.nl

Owing to the transmission over the internet of my radio program, *RADIOLA!*, I've found friends and listeners far outside my own bailiwick of upstate New York. Among them are two excellent Dutch musicians, Peter Van Alphen (aka Professor Peter) and Dick Heijmans (aka Doctor Dick) of the Small Instrument Society. The small instruments in this case are ukuleles, which have gained as much traction in the Netherlands as anywhere else.

Both my program and the Small Instrument Society began in 2005, and in 2014 they did me the supreme honor of recording my radio theme song, "Wake Up! Chill'un, Wake Up!" for their fine album *Undecided!* I was deeply moved that they had done so. Since then, Professor Peter has recorded and released a solo album, *I Picks Up My Ukulele*, and it is a very



delightful thing to hear.

Professor Peter sings classic and obscure American popular songs of the 1920s and 1930s with tuneful passion and absolute sincerity. These are songs that are best sung innocently, and without artifice—as people

PROFESSOR PETER I PICKS UP MY UKULELE

1. I PICKS UP MY UKULELE - Parish, Nelson, Burke 1930
2. THERE'S SOMETHING NICE - Terker, Bryan, Wendling 1927
3. CLOSE YOUR EYES - Bernice, Pelkore 1933
4. UNDER THE MOON - Wheeler, Snyder, Lyn, Tiedeman 1927
5. HEART AND SOUL - Carmichael, Loessner 1938
6. SWING IT SISTER - Adamson, Lane 1934
7. MY WOMAN - Crosby, Wallman, Wartel 1932
8. SWING BROTHER SWING - Williams, Bishop, Raymond 1937
9. TWO SLEEPY PEOPLE - Carmichael 1937
10. GO SLOW AND EASY - Fuller, Spencer 1919

once sang them around the piano when they were new. Our ancestors were much more musical than we are now, and they took their fun seriously. Peter re-creates that honest music-making and the result is utterly charming and eminently listenable.

In addition to ukulele and bass, on a few tracks one hears the haunting sound of something not unlike a theremin. A musical saw? It adds to the sweet wistfulness, as does the vocal of Floor on "Under the Moon." This music is a salve to the modern soul, and Professor Peter administers it most effectively.