

Music Review

Title: *The Great Escape*

Artist: Peter Leidy

Cost: \$12.00, USD

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Reviewer: Steven E. Brown

This is the third human services CD from singer-songwriter Peter Leidy of Madison, Wisconsin. The first two discs, *Greetings from Human Serviceland* and *More Songs for People Like You & Me*, are also available for the same price. For my taste, though, *The Great Escape* is easily the best of the bunch. Leidy's unmistakable style, which includes using the music of many popular songs with his own lyrics, won me, and several of my colleagues, over, as we listened to *The Great Escape*'s title song, which narrates a story of freedom from an institution; "Ride on the Wild Side," about the vagaries and mysteries of paratransit; the Ramones' "Don't Wanna Be Sedated;" and 10 other tunes.

"The Biter" is about a particularly difficult client and "Get This Crap Away from Me" is a literal exposition of some aspects of human services. My favorite is "I Went to a Conference," which explores, in a short song, every aspect of conferences one wants to avoid, and would be a great guide for every conference planner to learn.

Some of the songs I found less interesting have to do with bureaucracy, like "My Friend HIPPA," and "Shred Faster—The Auditors are Coming."

The CD concludes with the serious and gospel-tinged "Coming Home," which expresses the seriousness of the situations that most of the other songs deal with via humor:

I'm coming home
I'm coming home
Coming home
And you know it's been a
Long, long while.
Coming home
When I come home
Well, you know
I'll be wearing a smile.

I'm coming home
I've been gone way too long
Coming home and soon I will be free

I'm coming home
Coming home
Home where I belong
Community is waiting for me.
I'm coming home
Coming home
I'm coming home
Home to a real neighborhood
I'm going live
Gonna live
In a home of my own
Coming home
And Lord I'm feeling good.

This is a worthwhile collection to any disability studies and culture library or archive.