Derek Piotr
Fieldwork Archive

The **Derek Piotr Fieldwork Archive** (fieldwork-archive.com) was established by Derek Piotr in August 2022. The Archive contains over 2,000 audio recordings collected from March 2020 onward as proof of oral tradition persisting in the twenty-first century, and preserves diverse representations of folklife; ballads, hymns, tales, poems, children's songs, and interviews among them. The focus of this collection is on the "non-singer": someone with no background in musical performance who can nevertheless relate a song or folkloric memory. The vast majority of the recordings in the Archive showcase unaccompanied vocal performances.

In browsing the Archive you will hear singing from all walks of life: from nuns to bartenders, children to centenarians, folk-song scholars, authors, the remaining members of the Shaker community, residents of nursing homes, farmers singing murder ballads, and legends of the folk scene sharing their earliest remembrances of learning through home-singing. You will hear memories of hospice journeys, faith healing practices, tornado survival, and supernatural hauntings recorded everywhere from hotels to farms, libraries to supermarkets, and churches to train stations.

Key figures from the tradition bearers of Appalachia also candidly offer personal songs to the Archive: original compositions by the likes of Rick Ward, Bobby McMillon, and Orville Hicks are represented here. Folklorists with a keen eye will also spot familiar names within the collection — descendants of Lena Turbyfill, Charles Seeger, Almeda Riddle, Texas Gladden, Frank Proffitt, Lester Hubbard, Sandy Paton, Margaret MacArthur, Lydia Gydesen, Berzilla Wallin and Oscar Parks have been documented.

Though the vast majority of this material is recorded by Piotr on-site in informants' homes, twenty-first century fieldwork allows for telephony and Zoom to be used as methods to collect material. Recordings made on-site by other field agents and contributors on behalf of the Archive are also periodically included.

- Countries recorded in: The United States, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Iceland, Ireland, The Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Scotland, Serbia, Spain, Ukraine

- Languages and dialects represented: Albanian, Aramaic, Basque, Belarusian, English, Catalan, Chinese, Czech, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Mi'kmaq, Missouri French, New England French, Norwegian, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Scots Gaelic, Slovak, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Swiss German, Polish, Portuguese, Québécois French, Tagalog, Tamil, Ukrainian, Venetian, Vietnamese, Yiddish, Yorkshire Dialect

- U.S. states represented: Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, llinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin

Please consider supporting this project. The many facets of cultural expression in the Archive are a vibrant, prescient reminder of what must still be preserved and celebrated – the countless obscure scraps of song and fragments of folklore that exist hitherto undiscovered. It is our hope to discover and document as many as possible.

