

to folk radio October 2025

artist: **Ann Ramsey**

album: **Gallowglass**

label: self

Ann lives in Wilmington, Delaware

website: <https://annramseymusic.com>

there is *no* explicit language on this CD

Sloan Wainwright says,

"Ann Ramsey's 'Gallowglass' is a mesmerizing collection of forever stories, stitched together beautifully by her nimble guitar work and her lithe and intricate-as-lace vocals."

In "**Gallowglass**," the new 2025 release from Delaware-based, singer-songwriter **Ann Ramsey**, one finds a collection of tales that reflect the beauty and fragility of our shared human story. The nine originals, along with one cover-song, cross centuries of time and run the gamut from deeply personal to almost mythic. Full acoustic sounds add innovative colors to the traditional palette. The album covers unusual subject matter, ranging from her own memories, to 16th-century Ireland, even all the way back to the Pleistocene era. Ann says...

"I love history; I almost pursued academics as a career, but swerved into documentary production instead.

I loved making videos that tell someone's story, especially with old photographs and archival footage, perhaps recreating some long-lost scene.

Now as a songwriter, I don't need to find locations, or hire actors with elaborate costumes. If I want to set a song in 18th century London, I just do it."

Ann Ramsey is a musically trained, Delaware-based singer-songwriter from Wilmington, who specializes in Americana and Anglo-Celtic genres. She has a background in history, and loves to set her many story-songs in unusual eras and locales. She also enjoys playing in alternative tunings, modal keys, and unusual time signatures. Listeners often compare her delivery to Sandy Denny, Joan Baez and Judy Collins. She freely admits the influences of Richard Thompson and Eliza Gilkyson, from each of whom she has received instruction, on her writing and musicality.

*All songs by Ann Ramsey (AR) except
Track 6, "Withered & Died" by Richard Thompson*

1. **Gallowglass (A Tale of the Desmond Rebellions)** (5:35) (AR) Historical fiction, during the 16th-century Tudor wars of conquest in Ireland. An Irish maid is in love with a Gallowglass warrior. The heartbreaking story of their doomed love and the destruction of Munster.
2. **The Public Enemy** (4:00) (AR) Protest folksong from recent personal knowledge. Ann, a former Federal employee herself, tells of a hard-working civil servant whose government department was purged by DOGE.
3. **Three Times a Night** (3:40) (AR) Autobiographical in retro style. A woman driven to misery and insomnia by her lover. He's charming, seductive, and writes and recites sweet poems. But he casts her aside in favor of his own ambitions to chase fame in the literary world.
4. **Girl on a Bike** (3:47) (AR) A high-school freshman girl in the 1970s: records, a bicycle, an allowance. Too young to be cool, but old enough to learn about heartbreak. She tells how one evening after a comet appears, she loses a crush, but gains a friend.
5. **Nash the Hunting Dog** (3:54) (AR) Inspired by an adoption ad for a dog. Nash was appealing enough to be adopted, but returned to the shelter for being too "prey-motivated" having been raised as a hunting dog. This song imagines him relating his own perilous backstory.
6. **Withered and Died** (3:23) (Richard Thompson) A favorite Richard and Linda Thompson song, sad and surprisingly relevant. Teased and lied to by her own country and by a callous young rake, a woman wishes she could be carefree as a butterfly. But without any hope for change, she instead contemplates vengeful misbehavior.
7. **Neanderthal's Lament** (3:14) (AR) How one morning goes for an anxious Neanderthal hunter whose mate is missing. He knows that today he must face those "slight men" (the Homo sapiens) invading his territory.
8. **Antihero** (3:58) (AR) Wry and autobiographical. A woman's memory of being just 17 and in love. He's an older man, intellectual and bohemian, with an apartment filled with old books. He influences her developing world-view. Soon enough, though, college beckons her and they part.
9. **Jack Sheppard's Confession** (5:03) (AR) Historical true story. An original ballad about an 18th-century London housebreaker, thief, and prison escape-artist who was beloved but nonetheless hanged at 21.
10. **Let Her Go** (3:35) (AR) Autobiographical with a Gordon Lightfoot feel. He follows his girlfriend from New England to the prairies of Illinois and finds she is more interested in big-city nightlife than in starting a kitchen garden. He gets the message that it is time to let her go.