

# UTNE READER

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Every month, *Utne Reader* presents free, downloadable music gleaned from current and upcoming releases on independent music labels. This sampler was curated by editor in chief [Christian Williams](#).

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### John Moreland

It's been a while since American folk music has seen the likes of a songwriter that is able to cut as deep as John Moreland. It's not often that someone deserves comparison to the legendary Townes Van Zandt, but he's the first person that comes to mind when you listen to Moreland's soul-baring lyrics. To be clear, this isn't folk music for the faint of heart; Moreland shines when he dives straight into the painful aspects of being human, whether it be coming to grips with addiction or the dealing with the deterioration of a relationship. What makes it all work is that he sings with a passion that suggests he's lived every word of it. "I've always written to make myself feel better, I think," says Moreland. "It's my way of figuring stuff out – figuring out where I stand. You can't do that without emotion. You can't do that insincerely." This degree of honesty is hard to find in any art form, which makes Moreland's music all the more valuable and essential. Here's "You Don't Care Enough for Me to Cry" from *High on Tulsa Heat*, out April 21 [on Thirty Tigers](#).

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