



PAUL HUTCHINSON & KAREN WIMHURST

Paul and Karen came together through their love of traditional music cut through with experimentation, boldness, humour and risk. Their first duo album *Coracle* had five-star reviews and led to them touring widely across UK and European Festivals. Both composers and improvisers, they now celebrate over twenty years of close collaboration and original music playing as a duo and with other bands and large-scale projects.

Expect ethereal to turn gutsy, passion to be tempered by a good laugh and a tide of improvisation which means no two evenings are ever the same.

Paul Hutchinson is a BBC Folk Award Best Live Artist nominee with *Belshazzar's Feast*, a much-feted accordion player and teacher. He's equally at home on the concert stage, playing dance tunes for enthusiastic revellers or running workshops. His previous collaborations with Hoover the Dog, Pagoda Project and The Maniacs produced albums and performances that drew five-star reviews.

Karen Wimhurst is a widely commissioned composer ranging from chamber works to music theatre and large-scale, collaborative productions. Eclectic in nature, her own distinctive music manifests diverse traditional and jazz influences alongside a strong grounding in contemporary classical music. Latest works include *Synthetica*, an online opera in collaboration with MoDiP; *Heart of the Matter*, a bijoux chamber opera for Bass and piano featuring in Tete a Tete opera festival 2024; *Freedoms* for mixed choir and cello; a *Song for Dorset* one of the featured composers in the lockdown A Song For Us project and *Jump*, a solo work for clarinets, insect and amphibian sounds, featured at the British Library event *Small but Perfectly Formed* hosted by Martha Kearney and touring 2024 with an accompanying video by film maker Sonia Killmann.

Guest Artist - Hannah Cumming is an enthusiastic and virtuosic Fiddle Player and Singer who performs with Oomph! and Passion.

Fiddle-Singing (the skill of playing and singing and the same time) was a natural progression from a girl who sang everywhere (much to her family and friends' annoyance) and learnt the fiddle from age 11.

After graduating from Falmouth University Studying BA(Hons) Music she became a successful becoming a Solo Artist, Duo performer (With Jon Dyer), Ceilidh Caller and Player with Multiple Ceilidh Bands, Band mate of many over the years, from Klezmer/Balkan Music, to Jazz, to Pop-Folk, to Trad Folk, plus many genres in-between.

Hannah's most recent big achievement, and unforgettable experience, was being an Actor Musician for the professional UK touring Musical 'Fisherman's Friends the Musical' from the end of 2022 to end of May 2023! with the opportunity to go to Toronto, Canada for 2 Months with the Show!

Settling down more now into working with Matt Norman and Jon Dyer as Crowdy-Kit (Ceilidh Band) who got to perform at Shrewsbury 2024, Oxford Ceilidhs Jan 2025, and soon to be very busy at Chippenham Folk Festival May 2025 Plus many more incredible gigs past and yet to come.

Hannah is set to continue to grow within the Folk community and make amazing music with wonderful human beings. Very much looking forward to the gigs she will join Paul and Karen on over 2025 and beyond."

Guest Artist - Fiona Barrow is a Bristol based violinist and multi-instrumentalist, composer, teacher, recording artist and facilitator. She has performed for more years than she cares to admit to with a vast array of projects and styles, theatre, dance and concerts.

Highlights have included a sell- out run on Broadway, tours of Europe, Australia and USA, performances at The Globe, Royal Festival Hall, Albert Hall and Westminster Abbey, Topkapi palace, Wellington Opera house, and shows in Barbados (including an impromptu spot with Cliff Richard!) And not to forget the Star and Garter in Bristol.

Currently she plays with a range of bands and duos- performing regularly at Glastonbury, Womad and Shambala festivals amongst others.

Karen, Paul and Fi have been friends and played together for many years, including with the Playford Liberation Front, and have performed at various dance festivals.

**If you'd like to book them or get more information, please contact Paul Hutchinson
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