Blossom & Fruit

Tim Jones & The Dark Lanterns

Blossom & Fruit is the second album by Tim Jones & The Dark Lanterns; a combination of unique takes on material from the English tradition and spellbinding original songs. It will be released on **September 26th 2017** and the band will be touring extensively in 2017/18 to promote it.

Already well established on the London folk scene, the band have been playing together in one form or another since 2013. For this album Tim Jones is joined by Ted Kemp (Laura Smyth & Ted Kemp) on Concertina, Karen Phillips on fiddle, Em Marshall (Crow Puppets) on vocals and guitar, and Robin Timmis (Kibitz) on viola. The lineup bring a wide range of influences to their playing - from klezmer to psychedelia to Morris tunes - and while respectful of what makes traditional music great, have no problem blending and twisting its melodies and words to be part of an evolving and diverse tradition.

Tim’s songwriting has already proven enduring, inspiring many a folk club to rise in song before the first chorus is through, but this collection shows a newfound depth and maturity. The title track can be read as a straightforward seasonal song, but not far beneath the surface lies a catalogue of the changing relationships that have informed much of the work on this album; songs such as The Gathering Storm and Alexandra Rose continue this theme. Elsewhere the album turns outward to darker territory, with London Blitz ballad Candles Out exploring the way that conflict is portrayed compared to the eye-witness accounts of those who live through it, and the opening track A Calling On Song dealing with issues of disenfranchisement and powerlessness that will be familiar to many.

Of the traditional material, the influence of folk revival stalwarts such as Peter Bellamy and Bert Jansch can be heard in Polly on The Shore and Sweet Lemeny, while a blistering gypsy punk take on Down Among The Dead Men gives this four hundred year old song a surprising new lease of life. As far as we know, this album also includes the only recorded arrangement of the ballad Stratton Water by Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

The band are committed to recording live, and this new album was recorded with Ian Carter (Stick in the Wheel) in 4 days at XYZ studios in Hackney Wick. Album art by Becky Blench.

Praise for previous releases

*“The Oyster Girl is like a distillation of perfect summer evenings, full of tall tales, friendships and a few drinks. For great storytelling with real heart, catchy songs and all-round love of life, it’s hard to beat. A must-see band at this summer’s festivals, for sure.” – Bright Young Folk review The Oyster Girl EP 2016*

*“You have to keep reminding yourself this is folk music written in these years not folk trawled from the mists of time. Waves of soft acoustic echoes couple with pulses of folk rock touches and together place ‘St Giles Bowl’ finely into today’s English folk legacy.” – FolkWords review St Giles Bowl 2014*

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