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For the attention of:

5 January 2007

Friday 9 February 2007 **KEITH JAMES – the songs of Nick Drake** with Rick Foot on double bass

Chequer Mead Arts Centre, East Grinstead, West Sussex



During January, February and March 2007 singer/songwriter **Keith James** performs his eighth UK tour entitled *The Songs of Nick Drake*, in which almost the entire concert is dedicated to the work of the most loved of all English singer/songwriters. Previous tours across the country, totalling over 250 concerts, have seen audiences filling arts centres and theatres to hear this music again after an absence from the live music scene of well over 30 years.

Nick Drake himself, was, during his prolific period, somewhat of a mystery. He only lived to record 3 albums, "Five Leaves Left", "Bryter Later" and "Pink Moon", all of which were regarded at the time as being flimsy and without the substance that was called for to engage popular audiences. It has only been in the last 10 years that many thousands of listeners have come to appreciate their beauty.

Nick Drake has now, thankfully, become the most revered of all figures to take their place in the world of contemporary acoustic music. It is with this in mind that these concerts are presented.



Tickets £10 (less concessions) Box Office 01342 302000 or email info@chequermead.org.uk.
More information can be found on the Acoustic Sussex website (www.acousticsussex.org.uk).
Alternatively visit: www.keith-james.com or www.songsfnickdrake.com.

More bout Keith James overleaf...

Quotes - what others say:

"A fresh and powerful approach to these wonderful songs"
Patrick Humphries – Nick Drake biographer

"Some of the most atmospheric and emotive guitar based music you will ever hear"
Will Marcombe, The Independent

*"There are few musicians brave enough to make the music they really believe in.
Keith James is one of these"*
Bob Harris, BBC Radio 2

"Acknowledged as UK's finest interpreters, there is a relaxed and delicious soul-fullness at work here"
Colin Hall, The Telegraph

What is Acoustic Sussex?

Acoustic Sussex is a non-profit making organisation that promotes quality singer/ songwriters and other acoustic musicians in the mid-Sussex area, using different venues. We encourage new and local talent by providing support slots for the main act and other opportunities such as 'open mic' evenings. Any profit we make from events is used for charitable purposes.

About Keith James:

Although Keith is still, in some respects, a well-kept secret, he has recently seen a gradual emergence as one of the country's most valuable singer/songwriters, and concert performers.

Born in Salisbury, Wiltshire, Keith spent his early years in Surrey and Berkshire where, during the early eighties, he performed hundreds of times in what was then a healthy circuit of wine bars. During that time he recorded four, now collectable, vinyl albums.

Keith is a prolific writer with a large catalogue of songs, including the CD albums "Tomorrow is Longer Than Yesterday" (1993), "Outsides" (2002), "The Songs of Nick Drake" (2003), "Postcards" (2005) and his most recent studio album "No.1 Paradise Road" (2006). A career spanning collection entitled "A Small Few Grains" was released in September 2006.

As an artist, Keith has toured all of the UK many times both in his own right and as support to larger names, in addition to performing across Europe and the Americas.

Throughout almost all of the 90s, Keith spent more time behind the mixing desk and in the studio, gaining a deserved reputation as a producer and sound engineer, using, as can be heard on many of his own recordings, multi-track analogue tape. Very much dedicated to the purpose of the "singer-songwriter", Keith has always assisted most of the artists in his studio in a much deeper and more hands-on capacity than just committing them to tape.

Now residing in Canterbury, he is currently putting the final touches to a new recording studio called 'Bare Wires'. Primarily set up to record his own new material, it is unlikely that Keith will produce work for other artists to any where near the degree that he has in the past. And the future holds yet more. There are plans for Keith and Rick to take a careful selection of work by Spanish Poet Federico Garcia Lorca, set it to music and take it on tour. It is a project that they are both very excited about but will be extremely challenging, certain to come to fruition in Autumn 2007.



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