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For the attention of:

9 July 2006

Monday 24 July **PETE ATKIN + LIZ SIMCOCK** The Ravenswood, Sharpthorne, nr East Grinstead, West Sussex



Pete Atkin is the 'near-legendary' British singer and songwriter who in the early 1970s made six highly collectable albums of quirky, original, and always entertaining songs, told with ironic humour and acute observation. Pete wrote the music, and Australian satirist, writer and TV personality, **Clive James**, wrote the words. Unclassifiable at the time, their work stands as a defining example of what has since become known as 'English Chanson'.

For a 'day-job', Atkin is a writer and freelance radio producer, working mostly for the BBC, for whom he recently created the epic series *This Sceptred Isle*.

Thanks to the internet, after a gap of more than 20 years, it became clear that Atkin and James' early songs were far from forgotten. As a result, the old albums were reissued on CD, and the pair revived their partnership with live performances including the Edinburgh Fringe and a tour of Australia. Getting back on the road led to new material being written, producing new albums every bit as good as those from the early days.

This is rare opportunity to catch Pete Atkin solo, with just guitar and piano.

London-based singer, **LIZ SIMCOCK**, a great songwriter and gorgeous singer with a relaxed and very endearing stage presence. Liz's music career has been a quiet revolution, after having a song chosen to appear on the 'Playpen' compilation cd alongside Eliza Carthy, Billy Bragg, Eddi Reader and Kathryn Williams. Liz is currently in the news as one of the people behind Angelic Music, a recording, publishing and web-based 'meeting place' to promote female artists. Other backers for this interesting project include Hobgoblin Music, with support from artists such as Kate Melua and Janis Ian.



Tickets are £10 advance (£12 door) – telephone 01342 714810/716975 or email info@acousticsussex.org.uk. More information can be found on the Acoustic Sussex website (www.acousticsussex.org.uk).

Extended biography overleaf...

Quotes - what others say:

On PETE ATKIN:

"Struggle as you might (and you ultimately won't want to), the music of Pete Atkin sticks in your mind, provides you with hooks, phrases, refrains, counterpoints that will do for years. Pete Atkin's songs don't lend themselves to such easy categorisation. They're modern Tin Pan Alley." **Amazon Reviews**

On LIZ SIMCOCK:

"Liz Simcock is one of the finest singer/songwriters around. With a strong, expressive voice and high quality songs her music is fresh, original and very entertaining" **Acoustic Routes**

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.

Pete Atkin – biography:

Back in the seventies, **Pete Atkin** and **Clive James** Pete together wrote a couple of hundred quirky, original, and always entertaining songs, and Pete recorded many of them on half a dozen highly collectable LPs. Unclassifiable at the time, their work stands as a defining example of what has since become known as 'English Chanson'.



The songs earned Pete Atkin the respect of some of Britain's best rock and jazz session musicians. He was joined in the studio and on tour by a number of them, notably Chris Spedding, Herbie Flowers, Alan Parker and Ray Cooper, and though remaining virtually unknown to the popular record-buying public he built up a huge following on the UK college circuit. The late DJ, John Peel, was a fan, regularly playing tracks on his late-night shows.

Some years later, after a gap of more than twenty years --a gap which Clive had filled by becoming a best selling author and a fixture on UK television, and which Pete had filled by waiting for Clive to get bored with TV and writing books their old fans found each other through the internet and it became clear that their songs were far from forgotten. As a result, the old albums were reissued on CD, and the pair revived their partnership with live performances including the Edinburgh Fringe and a tour of Australia. Getting back on the road led to new material being written, producing new albums every bit as good as those from the early days.

Atkin made his first recording in 1967 and in 1968 recorded with Julie Covington. Producer Don Paul was a friend of the DJ Kenny Everett, who regularly played songs such as Master Of The Revels, from the first album Beware Of The Beautiful Stranger. Atkin did, and still does, write his own lyrics, but it was the collaboration with Clive James that produced his most famous songs.

After the sixth album (Live Libel), Pete and Clive's collaboration faltered, and Pete's musical career entered the "legend" phase. During this time he wrote for TV and BBC Radio 4, eventually becoming BBC's Head of Network Radio for the South and West. He subsequently went freelance, still working mostly in radio production for the BBC, for whom he recently created the epic series This Sceptred Isle.

This is rare opportunity to catch Pete Atkin solo, with just guitar and piano.



Joining Pete Atkin for the evening is London-based singer, **LIZ SIMCOCK**, a great songwriter and gorgeous singer with a relaxed and very endearing stage presence. Liz's music career has been a quiet revolution, after having a song chosen to appear on the 'Playpen' compilation cd alongside Eliza Carthy, Billy Bragg, Eddi Reader and Kathryn Williams. Liz then released 'Seven Sisters Road', trading her own independent path and building a solid reputation as a live performer along the way.

Liz's determination to be totally her own woman is a theme that continues on with this new album 'Vanishing Girl'. In 1999 she featured on the Playpen Album of New Acoustic Music alongside Eliza Carthy, Billy Bragg, Eddi Reader and Kathryn Williams. Since then she has trodden an independent path, recording two albums and gaining a growing reputation as a performer and songwriter. Blessed not only with a voice that is charged full of emotion, direct, warm and melodic, Liz's lyrics are both calm and passionate, full of poetry and yet instantly accessible, warm and welcoming but tinged with a touch of sadness, perhaps at this mad world we all find ourselves.

Liz is currently in the news as one of the founders of Angelic Music, a recording, publishing and web-based 'meeting place' to promote female artists. Other backers for this interesting project include Janice Haves and Hobgoblin Music, with backing from artists such as **Kate Melua** and **Janis Ian**.



More on Liz Simcock at www.lizsimcock.com.

More on Angelic Music at: angelicmusic.co.uk.

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