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For the attention of:

25 April 2006

8 May STEVE TILSTON with Chris Parkinson *Special support: Martha Tilston* Upstairs at The Red Lion, Turners Hill, West Sussex



He's been described as "a complete guitarist", "a singer songwriter of rare talent" and "absurdly accomplished". Ask anyone on the English folk scene who their favourite guitarist, singer and songwriter is and nine times out of ten his name will crop up. In a career spanning thirty years, **Steve Tilston** has become widely recognised within the world of folk and contemporary music. He's toured with Ballet Rambert, John Renbourn, traditional singer Maggie Boyle and in WAZ! (with Maartin Allcock and Pete Zorn). His songs have been covered by a who's who of the folk scene. He's the writer of the classic songs - recorded by Fairport Convention - Slipjigs and Reels, The Naked Highwayman and Here's to Tom Paine.

Chris Parkinson has played music since the age of five, first the harmonica, then piano, guitar, concertina, tin whistle, melodeon, piano accordion and keyboards, and even a little fiddle. He's a founder member of the highly acclaimed The House Band, has played with Waterson/Carthy, Mike Harding, Martin Simpson, Alistair Russell (ex-Battlefield Band) and John Kirkpatrick (with whom he was nominated in the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards as best duo). He also worked with Ralph McTell and Billy Connolly on his BBC TV series.

This is an unusual opportunity to see these two great friends on stage together - one of our most respected songwriters and guitarists and one of the country's most sought after instrumentalists.

Support for the evening is provided by Steve's daughter, Brighton-based **Martha Tilston**, a sparkling performer with a lovely pure voice, whose recent debut album has been getting enthusiastic reviews.

Tickets will almost certainly sell out in advance for this gig, so we are recommending early booking. Tickets are only £8 in advance - 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..

"Steve has always been a guitarist I've greatly admired, one of the best in Britain." Richard Thompson

"It seems to me that Steve Tilston has never sought fame on anything but his own terms. He writes beautiful words and melodies and when our generation of songwriters is assessed on our contribution to our time, Steve's work will rank alongside much better known artists." Ralph McTell

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.

Steve Tilston – biography

Born in Liverpool and raised in the Midlands, Steve made his recording debut in the early '70s with the classic *An Acoustic Confusion* and has been turning out quality albums ever since. *Life by Misadventure*, *And So It Goes*, *Solo Rubato* and *Such and Such* all featuring first-class song writing, quintessentially English in style and typically Tilston, marking him out as one of this country's finest writers. The instrumental *Swans at Coole* is testament to his guitar virtuosity. He's also released a 'best of' anthology, *The Greening Wind* and a live album *Live Hemistry* recorded on tour with Fairport Convention. His latest CD, *Of Many Hands*, is his first all-traditional album; a personal selection of twelve beautifully produced songs featuring guest musicians from the folk world glitterati - Martin Simpson, Nancy Kerr, James Fagan, Chris Parkinson and Maggie Boyle.

Steve has toured as guitarist with Ballet Rambert, as a member of John Renbourn's *Ship of Fools*, in a stunning musical partnership with traditional singer Maggie Boyle; making the classic recordings *Of Moor and Mesa* and *All Under the Sun* and with Maartin Allcock and Pete Zorn in *WAZ!* He is a celebrated artist in both Britain and abroad, winning accolades in Europe, Australia and the USA. His songs have been recorded by Fairport Convention, Dolores Keane, The House Band, Peter Bellamy, North Clegg, Bob Fox and John Wright and *Here's to Tom Paine* is the adopted theme song for the Tom Paine Society of America. His work has also been used for radio and TV documentary work.

Chronology (key events)

1971 - Records first album, *An Acoustic Confusion*. Melody Maker, Album of the Month.

1972 - Tours Scandinavia with Fairport Convention and Mott the Hoople.

1977 - Releases third album, *Songs From The Dress Rehearsal*, with Mike Giles (King Crimson)

1982-85 - Releases fourth album *In For A Penny In For A Pound*. Also performs as part of a group of touring musicians for the Ballet Rambert Dance Company.

1987 - With John Renbourn, Tony Roberts and Maggie Boyle, forms *Ship of Fools*

1989-90 - Plays mandolin and arpeggione on friend Bert Jansch's album *The Ornament Tree*

1995 - Sets up own label, Hubris, releases *And So It Goes*. Fairport Convention record Steve's classic songs, *The Slip Jigs & Reels* and *The Naked Highwayman*, for *Jewel in the Crown* album.

1996 - Duo releases, *All under the Sun*, with backing from members of Fairport Convention.

1997 - Fairport Convention record *Here's to Tom Paine*; Dolores Keane records *The Night Owl*.

2001 - Tours UK with Fairport Convention. Releases first live album

2003 - *Such & Such* released on Market Square. Voted Album Of The Year on WUMB Boston.

2004 - Featured guest on Andy Kershaw Show.

2005 - Tour with Brooks Williams - *A Transatlantic Song-Swap* and releases first all-traditional CD – *Of Many Hands*, being played by BBC Radio 2s Mike Harding, and best of 2005 on theacousticstage.net.

2006 - Touring in USA, Italy and the UK with Chris Parkinson to further promote *Of Many Hands*

More quotes...

"[*Of Many Hands*] *Classic songs sung beautifully - a truly wonderful CD.*" **Mike Harding, BBC Radio 2**

"100% - exactly what we've come to expect from Steve Tilston." **John Tams**

"...a refined and perfectly paced masterwork." **Colin Randall – Daily Telegraph**

"Unlike many of his contemporaries, Tilston's work simply gets better as time goes on". **Mojo**

"...hard on the heels of Richard Thompson in the perennially underrated stakes." **Q Magazine**

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