

CATHRYN CRAIG & BRIAN WILLOUGHBY 2024

Cathryn Craig has sung with Chet Atkins, Shel Silverstein, The Righteous Brothers and Jorma Kaukonen. Her great-grandfather Jacob Sowder was recorded by Cecil Sharp and featured in his book English Folk Songs From The Southern Appalachians.

Brian Willoughby is best known for his virtuoso performances on electric and acoustic guitar, with progressive folk/rock band Strawbs and also with Mary Hopkin, Joe Brown, Roger Whittaker, Bridget St. John, Jim Diamond and Monty Python.

Both Cathryn and Brian have accompanied and recorded with Nanci Griffith.

Brian rejoined Strawbs for their 50th. Anniversary concerts in the USA and Cathryn sang with the band. In August 2023, the duo performed as members of Strawbs, for the band's Cropredy Festival appearance.

Their 'Alice's Song' was an Aled Jones Highlight of the Year on BBC Radio 2 and Strawbs' recording of the song, was used by The National Autistic Society, as its theme tune for Autism Awareness.

Cathryn was Simon Mayo's star guest on BBC Radio 2Day, live from Nashville.

The Telegraph's Martin Chilton named the duo as his Folk Gig Pick of the year. Folking.com nominated Cathryn and Brian in their "Best Duo" category.

"Long live traditional music, even when it's only just been written" (The Living Tradition)
"Sublime guitar work and one of the finest voices around" (Folking.com)

"Cathryn & Brian returned to Twickenham in style on Sunday night. Cathryn gave us sublime vocals and Brian was as dexterous as ever on the guitar. A fabulous night of music and friendship, with Cathryn and Brian both on great form, with wonderful stories, songs and tunes, wrapped in a warm atmosphere - a night to remember. Thank you Cathryn and Brian for weaving your magic!"

"A massive thank you to our much-revered guests for a delightful evening and an outstanding performance comprising of superb songs, delightful vocals and ripping guitar riffs. Brilliant! They were a triumph at Cropredy Festival, when they joined Brian's band, Strawbs. We know because we were there! Cathryn has a beautifully warm, soulful, country-style voice that invites you to join her on a delightful journey through every story and every song. Brian plays the most superb guitar accompaniment and punctuates each musical journey with the most precise, delicate and intricate lead riffs. He's a bit good! It was an absolute pleasure to host such a talented and professional act and so rare to find artists who are just as bonkers as we all are down at the Woodman FC!"

"They remain firm York FC favourites...a joy to meet one of the most accomplished duos on the Folk scene, with superb songwriting, virtuoso guitar, beautiful vocals and warm engagement with the audience."

"A wonderful Forest FC evening of great songs and wonderful musicianship. It was good to see such a large attendance, the best at the club in a while."

"A lovely relaxed night at Irvine FC with plenty of opportunities to join in and sing along... a wonderful voice and an excellent guitarist."