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For the attention of:

28 December 2009

Monday 18 January 2010 **SAM CARTER + EWAN McLENNAN** at The Ravenswood, Sharpthorne, nr East Grinstead

Acoustic Sussex' first show of the year is a 'double-header' featuring two truly fast-rising stars of the British folk scene.

Recently nominated for the 2010 BBC Folk Horizon Award¹, **Sam Carter** is a startlingly perceptive and self-assured young singer and guitarist from the Midlands. He's spent the last few years busily honing his craft both as a writer and performer, studying with the hugely respected guitar virtuoso Martin Simpson whilst holding down his post as Emerging Artist in Residence at London's Southbank Centre.



On New Year's Eve, Sam joined an all-star line-up² at London's Royal Festival Hall to welcome in 2010. With the Horizon award nomination and a number of recent appearances on BBC radio to promote his new album, 'Keepsakes', 2010 is expected to be the year Sam really makes his mark.



Ewan McLennan is a young Scottish musician who's been impressing audiences all over the UK (including large venues such as London's Southbank). His singing and playing covers the broad range folk music has to offer, from traditional ballads sung unaccompanied, to dance tunes or melancholic airs arranged for the guitar. His own contemporary songwriting follows firmly in the folk tradition. Ewan's accomplished guitar work and unique vocal style convey his passion for the music he sings and writes.

Acoustic Sussex spokesman Martin Snodin said ***"To be able to see these 2 high quality performers on the same bill make this a show not to miss."***

Tickets are £10 advance (£13 concessions) – To reserve, telephone 01342 714810 or buy online at www.acousticsussex.org.uk

Note to editors:



¹ The annual BBC Folk Awards showcase to the media the artists and music that a Voting Panel of industry professionals consider the best in their fields in the previous year. The **Horizon Award** celebrates acts who have debuted or made a significant increase in their popularity and made a special impression during 2009. The winner will be announced in London at a Radio 2 broadcast event on 1 February.



² The New Year's Eve all-star line-up at the Royal Festival Hall includes top folk names such as Bellowhead, Eliza Carthy and Jim Moray, alongside Perrier Award-nominated comedian Tim FitzHigham and Big Chill creator Pete Lawrence.

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.

More about Sam Carter



Armed with a 'killer voice' (Nitin Sawhney) and the ability to play his guitar 'like a harp' (Time Out), as well as an unerring ability to put his personal experiences into a wider perspective, the east London-based songsmith made his mark with his debut album 'Keepsakes' released August 2009. Picking up from where the intricate guitar and 'haunting' (Eliza Carthy) storytelling of his EP 'Here In The Ground' left off, 'Keepsakes' is a collection of ten songs of rare depth and detail that belie their author's tender years.

That's not to say that 'Keepsakes' doesn't pack a punch; Sam kicks the album into life with 'Yellow Sign' spitting a fiery tale of east end violence over breakneck and impossibly intricate finger-style guitar work. Elsewhere is a striking rendering of 'Oh Dear, Rue The Day', a traditional folk song and tale of romantic deceit and bitterness. The album was launched with a thirteen date UK tour in September/October 2009.

"Keepsakes is a surefire collectible" **Independent**

"One of the most gifted acoustic guitarists of his generation" **Mike Harding**

"A sophisticated blender of ancient and modern" **Uncut**

"He's intriguing both because he's an excellent guitarist and an original, distinctively English singer-songwriter, specialising in well-observed songs." **The Guardian**

"There's a cinematic quality to his writing enhanced by clever arrangements" **Mojo**

"An English acoustic virtuoso... Fans of acoustic music rejoice, the UK's proud tradition of folk singer-songwriters is in safe hands" **Guitarist**

Virtuosity is not supposed to be rewarded in English folk music ...there's real talent budding here.' **** **Independent on Sunday**

More about Ewan McLennan



Ewan was encouraged to play music by his family at an early age, beginning on the piano at the age of six or so. This was an instrument he continued to play for a long time, focusing first on classical music for many years, and then also jazz standards and improvisation. Although by no means strictly traditional or British, singing was commonplace within his family, and he grew up familiar with the musical voices of his parents and grandparents. The collection of records, tapes, and later cds in the home Ewan grew up in gave him an early exposure to the traditional musics of Britain and America. Growing up in Edinburgh, the influences of Scottish culture and Scottish traditional repertoire are clear within his music today.

From Scotland Ewan moved to Leeds in 2005 to begin a three year degree course in music at Leeds University School of Music. It was during this period that he became increasingly obsessed with traditional music and singing, and the guitar. The specific interest in folk song came partly from the realisation that it could (and in fact often did) combine what had been his three passions for years: music; history; and social change. Soon, at the School of Music Ewan found himself paying particular attention to the vast repertoire of industrial folksong, eventually doing two major pieces of work on the role of folksong in the American and British labour movements, both during the early 20th century.

Toady, Ewan's singing and playing covers the broad range folk music has to offer; from traditional ballads sung unaccompanied, to dance tunes or melancholic airs arranged for the guitar, and his own contemporary songwriting, following firmly in the folk tradition.

"Ewan is an outstanding singer and stunning guitar player" **Sheffield Live Radio**

"Don't you love it when you come across music that is new to you and you find that it delights and excites you? ...A listener emailed me to say I should listen to Ewan McLennan. So I did...the only way I can describe McLennan is as coming from the same stable as Dick Gaughan and Archie Fisher, while at the same time being truly original. His voice is clear and strong with an appealing vibrato and his feeling for the narrative is strong and consistent. This is what the Irish call "the pure drop"...I'm sure you'll like him." **Mike Harding, BBC Radio 2**

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