

TTB



Take The Biscuit

Press Pack

Summer 2018

This is a short document with promotional material and other details that bookers, promoters and coordinators may need when booking us.

Scroll to the bottom for stage layout and PA requirements for festivals.

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Descriptions

10 word

Viola, Accordion, Drums and Bass combine for energetic, groovy tunes.

25 word

Exciting young duo GiffordBrookes (Viola and Accordion) join veteran backline Trevor Lines (Bass) and Rob Gifford (Drums) for mellow, chocolatey grooves and dynamic, energetic toe-tappers.

English Ceilidh Band, 'Take the Biscuit', combines exciting young duo GiffordBrookes (Viola and Accordion) with driving back line Trevor Lines (Bass) and Rob Gifford (Drums).

Old hand backline Rob Gifford and Trevor Lines join Matt Brookes (Accordion) and Beth Gifford (Viola) to create groovy, velvet tones and rough, thunderous vibrations.

50 word

Veteran backline Rob Gifford (Chalktown, Stomp) and Trevor Lines (Bonfire Radicals, Molten Amba) join fresh faces Matt Brookes and Beth Gifford to create groovy, velvet tones. Impetuous Drums and Bass are layered with a bounty of self-penned tunes and cherry picked traditional gems played on viola and accordion with aplomb.

100 word

Veteran drummer Rob Gifford (The Committee Band, Flowers and Frolics, Chalktown, Stomp) and seasoned bassist Trevor Lines (Bonfire Radicals, Molten Amba, Chalktown) provide the groove whilst a youthful frontline formed of accordionist Matt Brookes (Capers and Japes, Portfire, GiffordBrookes) and violist Beth Gifford (Mrs Savage's Whim, GiffordBrookes) add their dynamic expression and lyrical phrasing to the mix. Original material from each member of the band results in a plethora of self-penned tunes. Expect impetuous Drums and alluring Bass, layered with brooding, irascible viola and agile, bright accordion, combining to create rich and varied textures.

Workshops We Offer

Other than ceilidhs, we can offer various additional services in a workshop setting. Beth and Rob are both very experienced workshop leaders. Trevor lectures at The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire on jazz and folk music. Matt is an arranger and prolific composer.

- An introduction to calling for ceilidhs (*Matt and Beth OR Matt and Trev*)
- Music and dance: how to play for ceilidhs (*Any pair*)
- Writing tunes for dance (*Matt and Trev*)
- How to find chords that fit (*Matt and Trev*)
- Exploring more exotic chords (*Matt and Trev*)
- How to write harmony line (*Beth and Matt*)

Band Member Bios

Beth Gifford

As a classically trained Violist brought up in English Ceilidh tradition Beth is inspired by the rhythm, shape and vibrance of traditional dance music. She is a young and exciting Folk Educator and a passionate upper strings teacher, with experience of a wide variety of age groups, from five to seventy-five. Beth writes songs and tunes in the traditional style and has performed with groups 'Mrs Savage's Whim' and 'Anna & Beth.'

Matt Brookes

Matt studied music in York, specialising in composition. Whilst he lends his beguiling accordion wiles to Take the Biscuit, in York he gigged regularly with Gypsy Jazz band 'Corduroy Brookes and the Anchorsteam Collective' on Fiddle and with 'Bramble Napskins' on fiddle and box. He gained experience playing for dance in ceilidh band 'Capers and Japes.' Matt writes impelling, hair raising tunes, many of which are on the Take the Biscuit setlist.

Rob Gifford

With over 30 years experience, Rob is a stalwart of the English Ceilidh Scene, first performing with 'Flowers and Frolics,' and going onto to play with other highly successful bands including 'The Committee Band,' 'Stömp', 'Chalktown' and 'Gas Mark 5'. Renowned for his ability to ignite a dancefloor with infectious drum beats, Rob has performed at many UK folk festivals. Rob is also an experienced workshop leader including the 'Stömp Bandit' project at Sidmouth Folk Week.

Trevor Lines

Trev is a seasoned bassist, equally proficient in both jazz and folk. In recent years he has played with 'Molten Amba', 'Chalktown' and the 'Bonfire Radicals' and recorded with the likes of Chris Foster. As a lecturer at Birmingham Conservatoire he has worked to promote the understanding of traditional music in the wider musical community.

Band Logo



Stage Plan and Monitoring Requirements

BACK OF STAGE



Monitors:

Beth and Rob (monitors 3 and 5) want lots of Viola and lots of Sqz.Box RH, some Sqz.Box LH and some Bass. Matt (monitor 2) wants equal amount of Sqz.Box RH & LH and Viola, with a little less Bass.

Trev (monitor 4) wants lots of Sqz.Box LH and Viola with a little less Sqz.Box RH.

Suggested Scribble Strip:

1 Caller 2 Viola 3 Sqz.Box LH 4 Sqz.Box RH 5 Bass Guitar 6 Upright Bass 7 L Overhead 8 R Overhead
9 Kick 10 Snare 11-13 Toms