



The Last Troubadour?

***The Murmuring of Thieves* may be one of the most surprising albums of acoustic music released so far this year. Powerful, different yet echoing a long tradition, it seems to have arrived full of intent out of nowhere.**

Steve Bonham has been compared to Ray Davies of The Kinks and described as the 'songwriter's songwriter'. His new album ***The Murmuring of Thieves***, recorded with his band **The Long Road**, lives up to that billing and beyond.

Steve's is a voice rooted in the handmade, acoustic music of ordinary folks and wrapped up in the experience of more than twenty years travelling the world observing, engaged and intrigued. He may be the Last Troubadour. From the mysterious alchemy of experience and opportunity he has produced this gem.

Steve has taken the great ongoing conversation in acoustic music between the British Isles and North America and wrought songs which are passionate, elegiac, rueful, and compelling.

Working with two great musicians and companions, Chris 'the Bishop' Lydon and John Humphreys, and recorded at the legendary 'Woodworm Studios' in Oxfordshire, ***The Murmuring of Thieves*** delivers the intense almost live, raw feel that arises from three guys locked in a studio for long days drawing on every ounce of their deep experience as musicians and performers immersed in language and tradition of their instruments but driven to experiment and challenge and to create something unique and memorable.

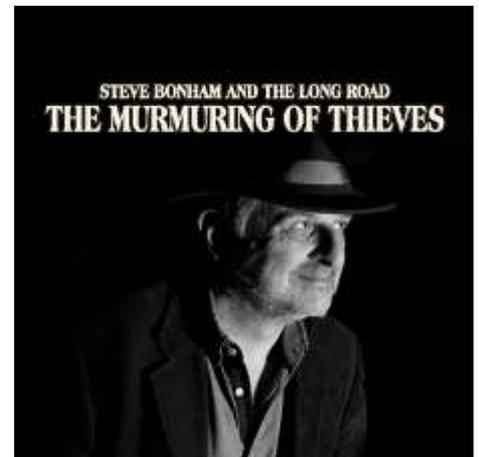
Theirs is a new sound, a blend of traditions. It is 'Artisan Music', mixing, guitar, banjo, fiddle, piano, tuba and squeeze box to create a sound that is high energy, intense and rootsy.

These are songs that will nest in your head and travel with you long after you first hear them, slowly revealing the layers of their meaning.

The words here matter. The acclaimed writer Jason Webster has said of Steve's writing:

"The gift of great writing is to find the universal in the specific ... Steve is an everyman with highly personal stories that chime with us all."

And so it is here, with songs that range from the almost cinematic *Riding the Road* (maybe the ultimate road trip song), the heart-breaking *Nothing's Changed* (about the closure of a steel works in the North East of England), from the state-of-things *Going Crazy Down on Main Street*, to his heartfelt elegy to his adopted county *Derbyshire Times*. *American Girls in Paris* is a wry account of two girls out to enjoy the 'exoticism' of a Sunday in France.



****PRESS RELEASE****

STEVE BONHAM AND THE LONG ROAD

APRIL 2016

The Murmuring of Thieves released on 24 March 2016 and features Dave Pegg of Fairport Convention on bass guitar on five tracks.

The Long Road will be touring the album from May through to the end to the year.

For more information, contact Steve on 07711 788248 or steve@stevebonham.net.

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- ENDS -

Steve Bonham

Wide brimmed hat. long dark coat, guitar slung on back. 21 years on the road. A 100,000 miles and half a thousand hotel rooms. From the Berlin Wall to Atlas Mountains, from Sahara Desert to the streets of Hong Kong: a memory brewed in the long simmering soup of people and place. A man who has learned to watch and to listen, to walk and talk in the ebb and flow of meeting and parting. He is a chronicler of the human spirit in words and music.

Recent works include:

Albums

The Moon's High Tide (2012)

Songsmith (2014)

Books

A Little Nostalgia for Freedom (2013)



WHAT OTHERS SAY

"...actually something of Ray Davies here too, via a jollied up, rhythmic and rocking Fairports... Has a wonderful lightness of touch" **Bugbear Promotions**

"Steve earns the title of 'Songsmith' he has a feel for melody and mood and a knack of matching or contrasting words with the music...a mixture of ideas and styles that any aspiring songwriter should hear" **R2 Magazine**

"... an artist who is truly passionate about his craft." **UK Folk Music**

"He doesn't just talk the talk; he walks the walk." **Roisin Ingles, Irish Times**

"I predict that he'll have a few songs nicked and crop up on albums by other artists...!" **Alan Marshall**

"If his wandering, itinerant existence produces music like this latest album, then keep on globetrotting, Steve!" **Frank Chester, Folk Monthly**

"Laconic, funny and intensely human." **Robert Twigger, award winning author of Angry White Pyjamas**

"This is without doubt fine writing from the pen of a true songsmith" **UK Folk Music**