



Steypning Festival 2018

26th May – 9th June

PRESS RELEASE

Folk at the Festival

Annie Edson Taylor was the first person to survive the ordeal of going over Niagara Falls in a barrel. It's the stuff of legends and the raw material for folk songs. Kirsty Merryn, who appears at the Steypning Festival this year, doesn't disappoint.

Kirsty, and Norfolk-based Alden, Patterson and Dashwood, are two young acts appearing in the Big Top in the folk evening on Monday 4 June as part of the 16 day Steypning Festival, which opens on 26 May and runs until 9 June.

Both acts have featured on the BBC Radio 2 Folk Show. Alden, Patterson and Dashwood weave rich harmonies around beautifully written songs and melodies, using fiddle, dobro, guitar and mandolin. Their album, *Call Me Home*, has received much acclaim both here and abroad and they are in great demand. Their appearance in Steypning is part of a national tour.

Kirsty Merryn has produced a highly-acclaimed debut album, *She & I*, which takes the stories of inspirational women in history, such as Annie Taylor and Emma Hamilton, and turns them into exciting music anchored in the folk tradition. It has received extensive airplay since its release, reached the top three of the folk charts, and continues to receive glowing reviews in the national press. Merryn's distinctive sound combines emphatic piano, sharply observed lyrics, panache, elegance, and the crystal-clear delivery of assured and beautiful vocals.

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The folk scene in Sussex is flourishing, with clubs in Brighton and Lewes and in most of the smaller towns and villages. Mick Bullen, responsible for bringing the two acts to the Big Top, runs a monthly song and music session in Partridge Green.

‘The younger generation shows a huge interest in folk music in all its guises,’ says Mick, ‘and the performers at the Steyning Festival Folk Evening are good examples of young musicians putting their own slant on it. It’s going to be an evening of traditional and contemporary songs performed with skill and passion, featuring stories of love, sorrow, hope and inspiration.’

PRESS RELEASE ENDS

NOTE TO EDITORS

- For further information please contact: Nigel Hartley media@steyningfestival.co.uk
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- 2 photographs of the performers accompany this press release: no credit is necessary
- The photographs may be sent separately by We Transfer

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