

seriouskitchen - Whispering Road Press Release

Nordic novels are all the rage at the moment with the likes of Stieg Larsson and Henning Mankell's Kurt Wallander books dominating the bestseller lists. But what happens when you combine dark Scandinavian tales with brooding folk music performed by the international touring group seriouskitchen?

Bubbling with vivid imagery and thrilling music, The Whispering Road is a story you'll never forget. Leaping between song, music and the spoken word seriouskitchen deliver an electrifying performance leading the audience on a fantastical journey to a land where every bird and beast has power and every encounter a deeper purpose.

The Whispering Road is brought to life with accompaniment of traditional Scandinavian music on the Swedish nyckelharpa (keyed fiddle), kohorn (cow horn), accordion, guitar and three-part close harmony singing.

Seriouskitchen draws on the rich heritage of Scandinavian myths and stories to bring you a show blending Nick Hennessey's spellbinding storytelling with Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer's renowned musicianship and their collective wealth of experience of Nordic traditional folk culture.

**Seriouskitchen comprises:** Nick Hennessey, who lives among the gentle hills of South Cumbria, is an internationally renowned storyteller and singer. He has performed across the world, in Japan, Canada, the United States and frequently throughout Scandinavia, in particular Finland where he has been researching the epic-singing traditions of Karelia over the last 12 years.

Vicki Swan is the UK's leading expert in the Swedish nyckelharpa\* and a second-generation piper. A Royal College of Music postgraduate, she is now bringing the nyckelharpa to a wider audience in the UK with her nyckelharpa UK project. As a fluent Swedish speaker and brought up surrounded by Swedish traditions Vicki is perfectly placed to perform Swedish music. In addition to the nyckelharpa Vicki also plays the little known Swedish bagpipes and willow flute.

Jonny Dyer; a performer, arranger and composer whose outstanding technical ability, coupled with a wide-ranging musical taste has made him a tireless and forceful musical innovator. He has become critically renown for his contemporary interpretations of traditional song. He also plays bouzouki, accordion and kohorn. He is probably the UK's leading exponent of this ancient Viking instrument.

\* What on earth is a Swedish nyckelharpa? The nyckelharpa is a traditional Swedish instrument that has been played, in one form, for more than 600 years. It is a keyed fiddle, slung around the neck and played with a bow. The nyckelharpa is, without doubt, one of the most ethereal of instruments you will ever meet with its fabulous chromatic sympathetic resonating strings creating its unique otherworld sound.

Nick Hennessey • Vicki Swan • Jonny Dyer  
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