



Welcome to **STEVE TILSTON**

*An Introduction....
... to an extraordinary artist ...*

Steve Tilston is a celebrated British singer-songwriter, winning as much praise for his superb guitar playing as his songwriting and vocal style.

His canon of work is widely recognised within the world of folk and contemporary music throughout Europe, Australia and the USA.

Born in Liverpool and raised in the Midlands of England, Steve has been ploughing his own artistic furrow, turning out quality albums since the early 1970s. In the past Steve has toured as guitarist with **Ballet Rambert**; as a member of **Ship of Fools**; with **John Renbourn**; and more recently **WAZ!**

From a career that spans more than thirty years, some of Tilston's best known songs include, "*The Slip Jigs & Reels*", "*The Naked Highwayman*" and "*Here's To Tom Paine*" (adopted recently by The Tom Paine Society Of America as its theme song.)

Tilston songs have been recorded by **Fairport Convention, Dolores Keane, The House Band, Peter Bellamy, North Clegg, Bob Fox**, amongst other fine artists. His work has also been used for radio and TV documentary work.

Steve tours solo, with other artists, and with his own band. His 2004 schedule takes in venues in the US and Australia.

You can book Steve now via:

UK

Lorraine Carpenter at Different Strings ~ Tel. 0117 966 1968 or 07929 135744
Email: lorraine@differentstrings.co.uk

USA

Frankie Lieberman
Email: frankiehues@earthlink.net



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For now, let's get back to ...

Tilston's Timelines ...

Steve's story over the years ...

1971

Steve records first album, "**An Acoustic Confusion**" on the **Village Thing** label. Becomes **Album of the Month** in **Melody Maker**.

Rod Stewart likes it and orders a box full to give to friends.

1972

Records 2nd album, "**Collection**," for **Transatlantic Records** and **MCA** in the US, where his style is beginning to develop a fan base. Tours Scandinavia with **Fairport Convention** and **Mott The Hoople**.

Booked to represent Britain in a musical capacity at the Munich Olympics, but due to terrorist activity, doesn't get to play a note.

1973-76

Continues touring Europe & Scandinavia. Moves to Bristol.

1977

Sets up own **Cornucopia Record** label and releases 3rd album, "**Songs From The Dress Rehearsal**," with support from **Mike Giles (King Crimson)**, **John Parry** and pre-fame **Rupert Hine**, who also **produced**.

*(This rare and sought-after album to be reissued on **Market Square Records** in late 2004)*

1978-81

Moves back to London. Secures publishing deal and concentrates on writing, performing mainly around London with his band, **Loose Shoes**.

*Meets and marries singer **Maggie Boyle**, by now a doyenne of London Irish scene.*

1982-85

Back to Bristol, Steve forms and performs with his own rock band and releases a 4th album on the **TW** label: '**In For A Penny In For A Pound**.' Also performs in an acoustic/folk duo with Maggie Boyle and the two become part of a group of touring musicians for the **Ballet Rambert Dance Company** which then tours Europe, Egypt and Jordan.

More useful contact information on Steve Tilston from:

Market Square Records ~ Tel 00 44 (0)1296 715228

Email: peter@marketsquarerecords.co.uk

Singsong Entertainment Publicity ~ Tel 00 44 (0)1895 636935

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1985

Helps set up **Run River Records** and records its first album, the highly-acclaimed '**Life By Misadventure.**'

1986

Records tracks for US label **Shannachie's** music of O'Carolan & Christmas album: '**Silently Falls The Snow.**'

1987

With John Renbourn, Tony Roberts & Maggie Boyle, forms 'Ship Of Fools,' and records album for US label **Flying Fish.**

Tours Canada and USA (playing New York's Central Park) with great success.

1988

Embarks on a 2nd US Ship Of Fools tour and includes Italy & UK.

Fired by his own interest in the instrument, he commissions the Kinkade brothers of Bristol to resurrect the Arpeggione (bowed guitar)

1989-90

Records a 2nd Run River album, the all instrumental '**Swans at Coole.**' Plays mandolin and arpeggione on **Bert Jansch's** album '**The Ornament Tree,**' also on Run River. Both albums released on Gold Castle in US. Moves to Yorkshire.

1990-91

Records '**Of Moor & Mesa**' with Maggie Boyle for Run River in the UK and **Green Linnet** in the US.

1992

'Of Moor & Mesa' voted Album Of The Year on Boston's prestigious folk radio station, **WUMB.**

1993

Steve and Maggie tour USA and Canada.

1995

Sets up own label, **Hubris,** and releases '**And So It Goes.**' Secures a US release on **Rounder/Flying Fish.** Completes a solo tour of US.

Fairport Convention record Steve's classic songs, '*The Slip Jigs & Reels*' and '*The Naked Highwayman,*' for their album '**Jewel in the Crown**'.

1996

A further Rounder release for the duo, '**All Under The Sun,**' is recorded with backing from **Fairport Convention** members.

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1997

Tours Australia. Steve and Maggie Boyle split up. **Fairport Convention** records 'Here's to Tom Paine,' from 'All Under The Sun.'

Irish songstress Dolores Keane records 'The Night Owl,' (from 'Of Moor & Mesa') as the title track of her latest album.

1998

Steve records '**Solorubato**' for **Fellside**; as the title suggests it is virtually solo Steve vox and guitar. Tours US.

*'An Acoustic Confusion,' re-released on American label, **Scenescoff**.*

1999

Releases first 'Best Of,' album: '**The Greening Wind**' for Hubris to great critical acclaim. Tours US. **Fairport Convention** records 'Rocky Road' from Solorubato.

2000

Tours UK & US.

2001

Tours UK with Fairport Convention. Releases 1st Live Album '**Live Hemistry**' for Hubris with tracks taken from tour plus Australian live radio recordings.

*'Life by Misadventure' re-released on **Market Square Records**.*

2002

*'I Really Wanted You' from 'Acoustic Confusion,' covered by Chicago band **Mascott**.*

*Track subsequently used as a **Super Bowl** soundtrack.*

2003

New album '**Such & Such**' released to further acclaim on **Market Square**. Voted Album Of The Year on **WUMB Boston**. Publishes 1st Songbook. Tours UK with support from **Anna Ryder, Jethro Tull's Maartin Alcock and Clive Bunker** Special guest is daughter **Martha**.

*Back in UK, watching TV at home, surprised to find himself the answer to a question on popular quiz show, '**Mastermind**'!*

2004

UK, US and Australia dates set to support ongoing sales of **Such & Such** and an ever expanding back catalogue.

Fairport Convention record two of Steve's songs for their new album. His **Over the next hill**, is chosen as the title track.

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The Songwriter's Songwriter... what other musicians say about Steve ...

"He is one of my and Fairport Convention's favourite performers. If you haven't heard him, I suggest you go and check him out as soon as possible. A remarkable talent!"

Dave Pegg, Fairport Convention

"It seems to me that Steve Tilston has never sought fame on anything but his own terms. He has been driven by his own enthusiasm for his chosen subject matter. He writes beautiful words and melodies and when our generation of songwriters is assessed on our contribution to our time, Steve's work will rank alongside much better known artists."

Ralph McTell

"Steve Tilston has an annoying habit of doing things with his guitar and lyrics that I wish I'd thought of first, coupled with an integrity of expression that compels me to say things like this in public."

Chris Smither

"One of the select band of songwriters with the vision to write great songs rooted in the tradition."

Robin Williamson

"A songwriter and guitarist I admire."

Bert Jansch

"Over the years Steve has become my all-time favourite songwriter on the British acoustic guitar scene. He's a fine singer who combines beautifully executed original melodies with superb lyrics on almost every subject under the sun."

Wizz Jones

Music critics' roundup... what music critics say ...

Of Steve ...

"Steve Tilston, singer songwriter and exquisite guitarist of the English folk-baroque school, is hard on the heels of Richard Thompson in the perennially underrated stakes".

Q Magazine

"His musicianship is beyond question, while the arrangements set a standard against which other acoustic guitar albums ought to be measured."

Weekend Telegraph

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"Tilston's work simply gets better as time goes on"

Mojo

"Steve is that very rare combination of singer/songwriter and guitarist who actually excels in all departments ..."

fRoots

"... a singer/songwriter or rare talent ... the polish of his performance and the technical proficiency of his lyric writing is staggering. He weaves classic, lingering melodies that are both warm and haunting, producing astringent, uncompromising music that thrives on rare and demanding intimacy."

Folk On Tap

Of his latest new album, 'Such & Such' ...

"Another highly polished collection from Tilston."

fRoots UK

"Tilston is a composer and storyteller par excellence and a complete guitarist, whose decorative and technically superior fretwork makes him as impressive solo as with accompaniment. Soul food for those who appreciate quality words and music ... should help expedite Tilston's return down-under (Festival organisers please note, a full four years has elapsed since he last visited out shores). Album of the week..."

Barfly, Australia

"You must buy this album, if you are a fan of folk, jazz, blues, country music. Basically, you must own this; it's in a different class."

Folking.com USA

"Such & Such is one more fine album from a thoughtful and creative musician."

Dirty Linen USA

"...an outstanding album from a musician of quality and integrity."

Dave Kidman www.netrhythms.co.uk

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Some of the people who have covered Tilston songs

1. **Slip Jigs & Reels:** Covered by Fairport Convention. The House Band. North Clegg. Peter Bellamy, Danny Doyle, Barry Gleeson, Wilson&McKee. & many more.
2. **The Naked Highwayman:** Fairport Convention, Kath Egglestone, Wilson & McKee.
3. **The Night Owl:** Dolores Keane, Maggie Boyle.
4. **.Rocky Road:** Fairport Convention, Tom McConville.
5. **Here Comes The Night:** Lee Collinson.
6. **Here's To Tom Paine:** Fairport Convention.
7. **Life is not kind:** Bob Fox.
8. **Can't Shake These Blues.(Tilston/Smither)** Chris Smither.
9. **Do What You Please:** Wizz Jones.
10. **Sometimes in this life:** Wizz Jones.
11. **Mirror Dance:** John Wright.
12. **Reachin Out:** Maggie Boyle, Grace Notes.
13. **In the light tonight:** Grace Notes.
14. **Down Falls the Day:** Grace Notes.
15. **Over The Next Hill:** Fairport Convention.
16. **Willow Creek(Tilston/Parkinson):** Fairport Convention.

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