

## Press Release

For immediate release: July 2019

### The Mile Roses launch their new CD 'Blue Skies'

***The Mile Roses is delighted to launch their highly anticipated second album 'Blue Skies'.***

The Mile Roses is Kate Bramley, Simon Haworth & Kari Macleod, three singer songwriters with eclectic and diverse roots. Born out of a musical interest in both British folk and the transatlantic connections to new country and Americana, the trio is fast gaining a reputation across the UK folk scene. This is contemporary folk music with a nod to Nashville!



'Blue Skies' features the song writing, vocals and musicianship of all three of the band with 12 songs made up of originals from each of the band, a number of co-writes from Simon and Kate (one with former Mile Roses band member Edwina Hayes) and one from Kate with North East song writing maestro and Pitmen Poet, Jez Lowe. The album is a mix of styles from folk to celtic, Americana to country music.

There is the folk influence in the nostalgic *Herring Boats* and *Girl in Forget-Me-Not Blue* whilst *Oak and the Ash* heads over to the celtic side at the same time as looking at the West Cumbrian floods. *Blues Skies*, *Split Screen* and *Water for Whisky* hit the country mark and *One Day Love* has country swing influences all over it.

*Land of the Brave and Free* leans to bluegrass whilst taking a sideswipe at the current state of immigration; as does the melodic *A Million at Sea* with its refugee theme. *Reign of Fear* is gothic in its eerie sound and *Hold On* waltzes its way from a 1940s ballroom to present day. Kate's collaboration with Jez Lowe is heard on *Shores of Fife* wrapped in Simon's *Rose Under the Hill* slow air.

The album was launched with a national tour that included a sold out gig at the Live in the Library series of music events in the Queen's Hall in Hexham.

Along with Newcastle's Simon Haworth on acoustic and electric guitars, fretless bass and vocals, the band features Newcastle fiddler and singer Kari Macleod and York's Kate Bramley on mandolin, cittern, fiddle and vocals. All twelve songs on the album are original songs written by the band members and they are joined on 'Blue Skies' by North East musicians David de la Haye of the Monster Ceilidh Band, Andy May of Baltic Crossing and John Lambeth from Dansi.

The album was recorded on location at Byer's Green in Durham by David de la Haye in February of this year. Much of the album was completed in 4 snowy days.

The 'Blue Skies' tour started in Dartford, London then wended its way via York and Hexham and up to Scotland. The Mile Roses' tour continues with gigs at the Lake District Folk Weekend and the Moira Furnace Folk Festival before heading to Holland in November.

*"It's looking like a good year for The Roses"* FRUK

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## Notes:

**Kate Bramley** is a fine singer and instrumentalist, best known as fiddler and vocalist touring internationally for the North East folk band Jez Lowe & the Bad Pennies, as well as the folk-bluegrass fusion band, Sweetgrass, based out of Montana, USA. She has one solo album on Tantobie Records 'Little Canaan'. She is also an established playwright celebrating 20 years of professional theatre touring with her own company in 2018.

Guitarist and singer **Simon Haworth** (Fellside Records) played bass with Jez Lowe & the Bad Pennies from July 1998 until March 2004 touring in Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Australia, USA and Canada as well as extensively across the UK. He also toured as accompanist with BBC Radio 2 Folk Award winner Carlene Anglim and top fiddle & Northumbrian Pipes duo, Tom McConville & Pauline Cato before forming a 4 year musical relationship with champion Northumbrian Piper Andy May. He also plays in top NE based ceilidh band Real to Reel.

**Kari Macleod** is a virtuoso fiddler, unique singer and Americana-style songwriter originally from Tain in Ross-shire, now based in Newcastle, who released her much-acclaimed debut solo album in 2016 with a series of concerts from her own band The Fugitives. She is a graduate of the Newcastle University Folk Music Degree course and is also a fine artist whose recent commissions include the original artwork for Jez Lowe's first novel 'The Dillen Doll' released in 2017.

## Song List

- **Blue Skies** looks at divided communities, and sprung from a pub on the Irish border where one room was split across the border resulting in drinking time being half an hour later on one side of the room.

- **Herring Boats** is a nostalgic look at the Herring trade in Wick, a time when you could cross from quay to quay by stepping over boats.

- **One Day Love** A nostalgic story reflecting on the life-long impact a person can have on another in just one day.

- **Hold On** sprung from a ceilidh Simon was playing at where at the end of the night an elderly couple took to the floor for the last waltz of the evening.

- **Land of the Brave and Free** is an immigration song, a topic that is very relevant now as much as ever.

- **A Million at Sea** was inspired by the story of Yusra Mardini and the countless other refugees crossing the Mediterranean, and the many refugees risking all by crossing seas and oceans across the world.

- **The Oak and the Ash** comments on the floods experienced by Cumbria over the last few years and the deforestation of the fells.

- ***Girl in Forget-me-not Blue*** comes from a so called Thankful Village of the First World War with a young girl waiting for her soldier to come back to her.

- ***Reign of Fear*** Loosely inspired by a period during the French revolution called the 'Reign of Terror'. An oppressed society revolts against the King to take back their freedom.

- ***The Rose Under the Hill / Shores of Fife***, a song within a tune. Rose Under the Hill was named for a then poorly member of the band, and after a band from America. Shores of Fife came from staying with a couple in Crail, Scotland whose house had some sea going tales to tell.

- ***Water for Whisky***, a love song that nods towards Nashville in an olde country waltz way.

- ***Split Screen*** is the story of a young couple giving it all up to travel the West Coast in 50s America.

***Ends***