

Eskdale & Liddesdale  
Advertiser  
7 May 2009  
( 9 )

# Tuning up on tour

TWO big names in the contemporary folk scene, James Yorkston and Lisa Knapp, come to Langholm's Buccleuch Centre on a Scottish Arts Council Tune Up tour on Sunday, May 17.

James, a native of Fife, is a major player in The Fence Collective and Lisa Knapp has been welcomed by the traditional folk scene and has been sharing stages with the major figures of UK folk since her arrival in 2007.

Vocalist and fiddle player Lisa grew up in London, fed on a music diet which lurches from house to dance to pop, from The Waterboys to Van Morrison, finally landing her in the unlikely environs of folk music by way of a friend's record collection.

What followed were several years of musical exploration which included countless days rediscovering recordings and books of traditional singers and songs from early 20th century through to the folk revival of the 1960s and 1970s.

In 2003 she began recording her own material. The first track she put down was Blacksmith, a York Broadside ballad published in 1825 and recorded in the 1971 by Steel-eye Span.

James was an integral early member of the Fence Collective, whose reach across contemporary music continues to lengthen: King Creosote, The Aliens, KT Tunstall, The Beta Band.

He is primarily a singer-songwriter, although he tackles a variety of traditional songs, learned from singers such as Anne Briggs, Dick Gaughan, Nic Jones, Martin Carthy, Lal Waterson, John Strachan and Adrian Crowley.

His solo career began when John Peel played a demo of his Moving Up Country, Roaring The Gospel.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets are £12, £10 concessions. Cabaret seating.



Contemporary folk singer Lisa Knapp is heading for Langholm on Sunday, May 17

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