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(36)

Folk duo team up at the Tolbooth

TOMORROW night (Thursday) folk singers Lisa Knapp and James Yorkston will be in concert at the Tolbooth theatre.

Lisa burst onto the alternative folk scene two years ago with her debut album "Wild and Undaunted", which was named the "Mojo Folk Album of the Year" and was nominated for two BBC Folk Awards.

James Yorkston is from Fife and as well as writing and performing his own material, he has had a long term association with the Fence Collective and its

other members, among them King Creosote, Lone Pigeon and Pip Dylan.

The Tolbooth's Eddie White said: "James' lush and often dark celebrations of the frailty of the human condition conjure up images of the beautiful East Neuk coasts and tales of lost love, drunken escapades and stubborn sea winds."

Both Lisa and James have performed at the Tolbooth individually, but this will be the first time that they have shared a Stirling stage. Tickets are £12 each available on 01786 274000.



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REVIEW

James Yorkston and Lisa Knapp

ENGLISH folk songbirds are rarely sighted north of the border, but the appearance in Perth of Londoner Lisa Knapp certainly got her audience twitching with delight when she formed one half of an inspired pairing with James Yorkston under the excellent Scottish Arts Council Tune Up programme.

Lisa's distinctive, often quirky, style, which extends far beyond the traditional folk music boundaries, was certainly a revelation to many in the fair-sized Redrooms audience. She adds multi-instrumentalist to her talents, including the rarely-heard autoharp.

Lisa performed a varied mix of her own material and her arrangements of traditional songs, many of which feature on her debut album, 'Wild and Undaunted', which

was Mojo's folk album of the year in 2007.

Lisa opened her set with two solo numbers before being joined by three members of The Athletes – James Yorkston's talented band – for a generous helping of her captivating music. Any artist who can write and perform a stunningly sensuous song about the shipping lanes around Britain's coast has to be special!

James Yorkston is not unlike a fellow Fifer, Jackie Leven – both hugely talented but eluding the fame and fortune bestowed upon far less accomplished musicians.

James' Perth audience certainly showed their appreciation for this Fence Collective associate whose music has gained plaudits from the likes of two late greats – John Peel and John Martyn.

He first met and performed with rising

Perth Theatre Redrooms

star Lisa in 2007 when he was musical co-director for the Lal Waterson Tribute as part of the BBC Electric Proms – and it was a Waterson number, Once in a Blue Moon, which was one of the Redrooms highlights, with Sarah Scott's gorgeous clarinet sending shivers down the spine.

This highly enjoyable evening of quality music covered bits of jazz, blues and acoustic rock, and closed on a folk note with Lisa's arrangement of the traditional A Blacksmith.

The Perth Theatre Redrooms gig – part of the Monday Night Thing series – was the opener for the James Yorkston and Lisa Knapp 11-date Tune Up tour, which plays The Tolbooth, Stirling, on Thursday before winding up on Skye on Saturday.

Alison Anderson



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