

**"With the Gigspanner Big Band, Peter Knight has assembled a group of musicians intent on making some of the most important and exhilarating art ever to sit under the banner of folk music" FRUK**

**"Natural Invention is a stunning achievement - perhaps one of the most sophisticated and enchanting folk albums ever released" From the Margins**

**"Amazing...a force to be reckoned with - they storm every stage they walk on" Mike Harding - Musician/Broadcaster/Writer**

### **Peter Knight's Gigspanner Big Band**

Peter Knight's Gigspanner are a unique force in British folk music. Their high-energy, virtuosic performances appeal equally to traditionalists and to those looking for something more experimental, and they have garnered praise from publications as varied as fRoots, The Telegraph and The Wire, where they were described as *'melodically folk-rooted yet open and innovative beyond the constraints of genre.'*

Beginning life as a trio - with former Steeleye Span fiddle player Knight being joined by percussionist Sacha Trochet and guitarist Roger Flack - the live line-up was soon expanded to form the Gigspanner Big Band, with acclaimed multi-instrumental duo Phillip Henry and Hannah Martin (BBC Folk Awards 'Best Duo') joining the fray.

Characterised by riotous inventiveness, technically gifted individual playing and subtle collaborative interaction, their first tour together was captured wonderfully on their 2017 album *Live*, and saw them *'taking folk music down new and enthralling paths.'* (FRUK)

Now, after a fortuitous meeting at the FolkEast Festival, Knight has enlisted the considerable talents of melodeon and concertina player John Spiers, something of a folk superstar in his own right. In Knight's words, "John is an extraordinary musician... a great and sensitive player". Knight's excitement at the new venture is evident, and it says much about the nature of his musical outlook that, after half a century of innovation, he is still as willing as ever to move in bold new directions.

As collaborations go, it doesn't get much more mouth-watering than this. While Knight, as part of Steeleye Span's classic 1970s line-up, helped invent a brand of folk rock that is still influential today, Spiers, a founder-member of Bellowhead, has had an equally profound impact on the landscape of traditional music over the last two decades.

Taking self-penned material along with music rooted in the British Isles and beyond, with the flick of a bow, a finely chosen chord or slip of a beat, they produce richly atmospheric arrangements layered within a wealth of subliminal musical influences *"with notes seemingly plucked from the stars and rhythms from the equator"* *Spiral Earth*

Unsurprisingly, the superlatives have come thick and fast...

**"One of the best live bands you are likely to see this year, or any year for that matter" Folk Radio UK**

**"They don't play together very often, but when they do it's spectacular" 5\*\*\*\*\* R2 Magazine**

**"True creativity speaks to the heart and entertains the mind with fresh ideas and images, and what brilliant entertainment this is. Knight has a knack for identifying the essence of a tune or song, pulling it apart and presenting it back to you in a way that surprises and refreshes. Hannah Martin and Phillip Henry simply make sublime music that has an otherworld of undercurrents and motifs woven through it. Put them all together and some alchemical magic occurs" 5\*\*\*\*\* Spiral Earth**

**"Totally blown away by the spellbinding Gigspanner Big Band. Lost for words..." Folking. com**

**"What a fabulous team they make, together producing a startlingly new musical form with few, if any, antecedents. The flights of musical fancy are staggering in their natural invention" Fatea Magazine**