

CD REVIEW

NORTHERN SHORES & STORIES **BY ELIZABETH & JAMESON**

Reviewed by Barry Guy



Northern Shores and Stories is the debut studio album by Elizabeth & Jameson. The duo, based in Bedfordshire, is an award-winning collaboration comprising two rising stars of the UK acoustic music scene, Hannah Elizabeth of traditional folk trio 'Said the Maiden' and Griff Jameson from folk-rock band 'Fred's House'. The songs and stories featured on the album demonstrate simple classic folk song writing at its best. They are all inspired by the North Yorkshire coast, in particular the harbour town of Whitby with its many historical figures, myths and legends both famous and lesser known. Each song is performed with crystal clear vocals and beautiful backing harmonies, the musical accompaniment of guitar, violin and accordion perfectly complementing rather than overpowering the exquisite vocals. There is a pleasing variation of style and tempo between the tracks and the inclusion of field recordings of the physical locations that have inspired them helps create the mood and transport the listener to the locations featured. These gentle songs recall tales of love, loss, absent friends, loneliness and endurance. There is none of the usual dark folk song repertoire of violence, death and retribution. The accompanying booklet provides both the lyrics and information about the items or events that have inspired them. The album was launched on 22 May and further information is available from www.elizabethandjameson.co.uk.

