

## CD Review

### Honey and The Bear – ‘Journey Through The Roke’

Reviewed by Debbie Catt

After five years touring the folk circuit, acclaimed East Anglian based husband and wife duo, Lucy and Jon Hart, like many other musicians, found themselves grounded by the pandemic in 2020. But in the face of adversity, drawing inspiration from the county of Suffolk where they live, they challenged themselves to start creating new material. On a weekly basis, they put out live streamed gigs – connecting with their audience in a new and positive way.



With their new found appreciation of nature and the great outdoors, and reflecting on the wider impact of humans on the planet, they journeyed through uncharted territory. Exploring local stories, digging deep and bringing tales of survival to the surface, they found a powerful common theme. And with help from generous crowdfunding supporters, **‘Journey Through the Roke’**\*\* came to life.

Produced by Lucy and Jon, all but one of the 12 tracks on this inspiring and evocative album are original. There’s just one traditional song, the Irish ballad *My Lagan Love*, sensitively delivered by Lucy’s hauntingly powerful voice.

Combining their exceptional vocal talents, the duo skilfully blend Americana, jazz and blues with touches of funk, country and traditional folk – a masterpiece of creativity. Both Lucy and Jon play double bass and guitar - Lucy also plays banjo, mandolin and ukulele and Jon plays electric guitar and bouzouki. Adding to the musical magic, four of the ‘Lost Boys’ (members of Sam Kelly & The Lost Boys) are guesting on the album - multi-instrumentalist Toby Shaer on whistle, flute, harmonium, double bass, cittern and fiddle; Evan Carson on bodhran, drums and percussion; Archie Churchill-Moss on melodeon and Graham Coe on cello.

Although dealing with some topical and sensitive subjects, the whole album has an air of positivity and hope for the future - just what’s needed in these difficult times.

Get more details about this CD (released April 23 2021) and check out tour dates at folk clubs and festivals etc. at <https://honeyandthebear.co.uk>

\* *Roke*: An old East Anglian word describing the smoke-list mist that rises in the evening off marshes and water meadows