

'Time For A Stottycake' by Mat Green & Andy Turner

Reviewed by Carl Filby (March 2024)



Mat Green has developed a unique, highly danceable and essentially English fiddle style and recently celebrated 50 years of dancing the Morris, including 25 years as Squire of Bampton Morris. For many years he also played with the well-known ceilidh band, the Woodpecker Band, until they retired in 2012.

Andy Turner plays the anglo-concertina and melodeon and has many years' experience of playing dance music, for

the Oyster Ceilidh Band amongst others, and is the musician for Headington Quarry Morris Dancers. He is also a fine singer of traditional song and is able to play in a slower, smoother style to accompany himself, as a contrast from his usual punchy, rhythmic concertina style.

Together, Mat and Andy play mainly traditional English dance tunes, often little-known from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, interspersed with songs, again mainly from English traditional sources. Mat and Andy are founder members of Magpie Lane, a well-known band on the Oxfordshire folk music scene for the last 30 years or so.

The CD is well presented in a traditional plastic case and accompanied by an informative booklet, inserted into the front of the case and acting as the front cover, providing credits and explaining the origin of all the tunes and the songs. As I said in the CD review of WildGoose Records stablemates, Pete Cooper and Richard Boulton, the record company should be congratulated on the presentation of their CDs.

I have to admit that, as a one-time Morris Dancer with Bath City Morris in the 1970s, I danced to the Bampton village tradition, amongst many others, and I may even have unknowingly brushed shoulders with Mat Green at a Bampton Day of Dance around 1977. So, a lot of the tunes have a familiarity and an instant appeal to me, though of course that is dependent on them being well played, which they are here. I also enjoyed Andy's style of singing and the songs provide a nice counterpoint to the dance tunes.

I enjoyed the whole album so it's difficult to pick my favourites because of the familiarity of the dance tunes, but I enjoyed the combination of a Shetlands tune, Auchdon House, with the close proximation of The Blue Eyed Stranger to the great William Kimber's version of that tune. I also particularly enjoyed the combination of The Barley Raking with the Morris tune 'Maid Of The Mill' and Glorishears / Highland Mary revive many fond memories.

I think this album could be appreciated by a much wider audience than ex-Morris Dancers and you can find more information on this talented duo [HERE](#).