

## Barbican Contemporary Music Christmas 2009

**Tuesday 15 December 8pm**

### **Twisted Christmas**

**Richard Hawley, Eliza Carthy, Ed Harcourt, Josephine Foster, Amiina, Polly Scattergood, Alasdair Roberts, The King of Luxembourg, Donald Lindsay + Sense Of Sound Choir + more artists tba**

**Compere: Jeremy Hardy**

Tickets £15/£20/£25

Produced by the Barbican

Part of Only Connect

Following its debut sell-out in 2008, this deliciously dark evening of alternative Yuletide entertainment features a completely new line-up of singers, musicians and other guests performing their own versions of Christmas songs past, present and future - as well as writing their own seasonal offerings – in a show compered by the inimitable **Jeremy Hardy** and opened by the great Scottish piper **Donald Lindsay**.

Daughter of folk legends Martin Carthy and Norma Waterson, singer, composer and violinist **Eliza Carthy** has been for many years one of the most exciting figures on the English folk scene. Twice-nominated for a prestigious Nationwide Mercury Prize she is also the winner of more than five BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards. In 2003 she became the first traditional English musician to be nominated a BBC Radio 3 Award for World Music, for her album *Anglicana*.

Now signed to London's Fire Records, Colorado-born singer-songwriter **Josephine Foster** plays guitar, harp, ukulele and piano. Before going solo Foster was half of Born Heller, a duo with free jazz-bassist Jason Ajemian, and played with pop group The Children's Hour. Her often deliberately archaic-sounding compositions have been described as '*crooked Germanic slightly-delic songs*'; her much-awaited new CD *Graphic As A Star* is out on Fire in December.

Definition-resistant British singer-songwriter **Ed Harcourt** is known for his stylistic and instrumental versatility. He has performed with Patti Smith and Marianne Faithful; artists he has opened for over the years include R.E.M., Snow Patrol, Wilco, Beth Orton, Norah Jones, The Magic Numbers and Feist. He has also recorded and performed with cutting-edge French jazz trumpeter Erik Truffaz.

**Richard Hawley** has quietly established himself as one of the UK's most significant singer-songwriters. Over a long career as guitarist, songwriter and producer, Hawley found success as a member of Britpop band Longpigs in the 1990s and later played with Pulp, led by his friend Jarvis Cocker. As a solo musician, Hawley has released six studio albums to date. He has also collaborated on numerous projects, from playing with Arctic Monkeys and Elbow, to co-producing and co-writing Tony Christie's 2008 album *Made In Sheffield*. His sixth studio album, *Truelove's Gutter* (Mute) was released in September.

**Alasdair Roberts** has become a compelling exponent of the traditional song and balladry of the British Isles. Glasgow-based, the first release under his own name, 2001's solo guitar-and-voice album of traditional songs *The Crook of My Arm* (Secretly Canadian) was described by *Uncut* magazine as the '*folk-rock visionary's stunning treasure*'.

Author of a fantastically dark and unsettling eponymous debut album, **Polly Scattergood's** musical backdrops - odd piano loops, discreet guitars, flutters of synth and adeptly deployed electronic percussion – conjure up a curious mixture of the everyday and the fantastic. Listeners

will hear Kate Bush, PJ Harvey and even a whisper of Patti Smith: *'The mind boggles - in a great way - as to exactly what she'll be up to in 10 years time'* – NME.

Originally a female Icelandic string quartet, the three-piece **Amiina Strings** first decided they wanted to write music together in 2004. Collectively able to play a bewildering variety of instruments, they came up with the remarkable debut album *Kurr*, and offer a unique and utterly refreshing soundworld. For this performance, Maria Sigfusdottir and Sólrún Sumarlídadóttir will forge a new collaboration with electronica maverick Kippi Kaninus and the singular American-in-exile Paul Lydon, aka Blek Ink.

**The King of Luxembourg** – also known as Simon Fisher Turner – is a genuine maverick, a singer-songwriter and actor who also cores films (including some of Derek Jarman's key works) and has been a visiting professor at the Braunschweig School of Art in Germany.

Concert at the Barbican Hall, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2Y 8DS unless stated  
Box Office: 0845 120 7550 [www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk)

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