

Nick Wyke & Becki Driscoll



Two of the West Country's finest fiddle-players join forces to form this fabulous duo with an innovative take on English traditional music and song.

Nick Wyke & Becki Driscoll are highly-respected musicians, composers and workshop leaders based in North Devon. They first collaborated as a fiddle duo on a busking trip around Spain and Portugal, and in the years since have worked with some of the leading lights of the English folk scene, always pushing the boundaries and developing new and inventive music.

"folk music at its best" - The Living Tradition

Their unique style is born out of a passion for traditional music, the interplay between the two violins, and a keen sense of place and time. Becki's melodic, emotive violin and viola blend with Nick's driving fiddle chords and powerful vocals to create a rich, captivating sound, delivered alongside anecdotes of their musical adventures.

"...lovely, inventive playing" - fRoots

The duo's compositions and interpretations of traditional songs are influenced by a wide range of musical cultures: "We are inspired by the people we meet and the places we've been. We like the idea of a global approach to the English tradition." Their music journeys from the darker side of English ballad to uplifting country dance tunes, performed with skill, energy and an intimate connection with the audience.

"bursting with vitality" - Musicians Union Magazine

As well as performing as a duo, Nick & Becki have provided fiddle parts and string arrangements for a host of folk and roots artists, recently touring as part of the *Jim Causley Trio*. They also host the very successful annual English Fiddle Workshop Weekend at *Halsway Manor*.

Their latest project *"The Songs of Edward Capern"* adds a variety of other instruments to their trademark sound. The album features landscape and life-inspired poetry from a renowned Victorian poet set to the duo's own compositions, drawing on and evoking the folk melodies of 19th Century Devon from the soaring highs of the lark to the deep sadness of the weeping robin.

"I cannot recommend this album highly enough - pure joy from start to finish" - The Living Tradition

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Becki Driscoll started playing folk and traditional music in her home town of Bridport with ceilidh band Sundance and went on to study community music in Liverpool. Since moving back to the South West she has been working for Wren Music, running music workshops throughout Devon.

Becki composes many of the new tunes for the duo, drawing on her interest and knowledge of traditional English and Western European music for inspiration.

Other work has included playing with *The Angel Brothers*, accompanying *Mick Groves* from *The Spinners* and playing fiddle for a Country and Western show at Butlins!

Nick Wyke has lived in North Devon for as long as he can remember! He plays fiddle, guitar, bass and sings.

After training with Wren Music as a community musician, Nick began to explore the traditional fiddle-music of the area, particularly the tunes of William Andrew of Dartmoor.

Nick is the main singer for the duo and enjoys getting inside the story of a song. He is also often found happily chugging away on the chords...

Aside from his work with Becki, Nick plays fiddle with folk innovators *Gadarene*, and has worked and recorded with a number of folk musicians including *Jim Moray* and *Jackie Oates*.

