



Gleanings

Rural Study Centre for Music, Art and the Natural World

Janet Russell

“Singing with Purpose –
the emotion, the message, and/or the rhythm”
Sat. 29th - Sun. 30th September 2012

Janet first made a name for herself on the folk circuit in the '80's as a young singer songwriter writing with hard-edged humour about issues affecting women. Her “Secretary's Song” was the most requested song on “Folk on 2” in 1987/8, and “Breastfeeding Baby in the Park” has been taken up by the pro-breastfeeding lobby nationally and internationally. Whilst resident in London Janet worked with Leon Rosselson, Sandra Kerr, and Roy Bailey in the Political Song Network, helping to produce songbooks and organise regular concerts. Whilst bringing up her two sons, living in Yorkshire, Janet became an established voice workshop and community choir leader, and a member of the Natural Voice Practitioners Network, established through Frankie Armstrong's work. This has led Janet to arrange some songs by favourite songwriters such as Leon Rosselson, Maggie Holland, Robb Johnson, and Sandra Kerr and partner Jim Woodland for performance by community choirs, as well as “borrowing” arrangements from Leon, Sandra, and other colleagues to enrich the community choir repertoire. Janet's solo performance work is firmly rooted in the traditions of the UK, and some of her most recent songwriting, though still making comment on the issues of the day, sits firmly within traditional music styles. However, Janet is likely to be seen at concerts celebrating anything from the songs of Robert Burns, Hiroshima Day commemorations, and traditional singarounds to focussed sessions on the position of women in today's society and treasured songwriters of our own time. Janet can also be seen in performance with JigJaw, who “sing for dancing and dance for singing”, and Sisters Unlimited, who sing songs of social justice for and about women.



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