



BLOWZABELLA

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About

Blowzabella is a genuinely unique band that makes an inimitable, driving, drone-based wall-of-sound - played with a fabulous sense of melody, rhythmic expertise and sheer feeling. They compose their own music which is influenced by English and European traditional folk music and song. Many of their tunes are “standards” in the modern British/European folk repertoire and are played by people all over the world. Bands across Europe and beyond who experiment with folk music often cite Blowzabella as a major influence. Much loved and respected, there is no one else quite like them.

In 2018 they celebrated their 40 years jubilee with their recent album ‘Two Score’, a new book of tunes ‘More Scores’ and gigs and festivals in the UK and the EU. Currently the musicians are working on a new album to be released in early 2021.

Line-up

Andy Cutting – diatonic button accordion

Jo Freya – vocals, saxophone, clarinet

Paul James – vocals, bagpipes, saxophones

Gregory Jolivet – hurdy-gurdy

David Shepherd – violin

Barn Stradling – bass guitar

Jon Swayne – bagpipes, saxophone

BLOWZABELLA LIVE PERFORMANCES: CONCERTS, DANCES AND WORKSHOPS

Blowzabella plays concerts, but also offers workshops and music for dances.

Concerts

As international folk legends Blowzabella played at all the major European festivals including the main stage at Glastonbury Festival, but the band also performs in cultural centers, at folk clubs and in concert halls.

Dances

Blowzabella play dance music composed and arranged by the band for a variety of English and European traditional dances. The dances are easy to pick up and you don't have to be an expert to get involved.

Workshops

Dance Workshop: Jo Freya & David Sheperd

Folk Big Band: Paul James & Barnaby Stradling

Diatonic Button Accordion & Melodeon (G/D): Andy Cutting

Bagpipes (G): Jon Swayne

Hurdy-Gurdy: Gregory Jolivet

Violin: David Sheperd

Singing: Jo Freya

MUSIC EXAMPLES

Adam Was A Poacher (from recent album)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiXIMrSvgkM>

Live Performance (at Shrewsbury Folk Festival 2018)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JNwO8EEI39w>

BLOWZABELLA WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Website: <http://blowzabella.co.uk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/blowzabella/>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC18HEKrrre0T56-PWi2nxcng>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/blowzabella>

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT BLOWZABELLA

"Then Blowzabella introduced a set about "death, and things going wrong ... but we do play happy tunes too, honest!": the folk legends' Saturday-night headline slot was original and enjoyable. It also offered the rare opportunity to witness the versatility of a hurdy-gurdy in the skilled hands of Grégory Jolivet. The British and European traditions that Blowzabella blend brought a welcome but all too rare foreign accent to the music. With so many nations shaping our past, present and future, where were the musicians who can enrich English folk with their mixed heritage?"

Review of Blowzabella's headline set at Folk East, August 2016.

Imogen Tilden, THE GUARDIAN

"If ever a band was overdue a lifetime achievement award it is Blowzabella. Not only have they written a stack of what have become standard tunes in sessions on both sides of the channel, but they have also been largely responsible for reviving English Bagpipes and hurdy-gurdy, instruments that played a foundational role in traditional music."

Andrew Letcher, SONGLINES

"Musically I'm inspired by all sorts: a lot of electronica, like Autechre and Funkstorung, and pop music and bands too, people like David Bowie and The Ramones, and these weird folk records like Blowzabella."

Joseph Mount, aka METRONOMY

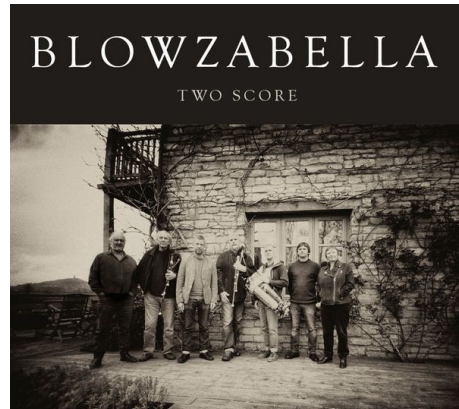
"I'm a massive fan. Huge. All my life I've loved Blowzabella and have watched you all live loads of wonderful times. I emailed you years ago, and we spoke about how children seem to love Blowzabella's sound. And I just thought I'd email again now I have children of my own. A daughter and a son. I can now confirm that your music is still a firm favourite of the next generation. We love you. Always have, always will. I just want to say thank you."

Beth

"Blowzabella deliver that rare beast – a live album that somehow manages to capture the rampaging spirit of musical freedom that first marked them apart from all other bands... and has never been replicated since."

Colin Irwin, fROOTS

RECENT ALBUM: TWO SCORE



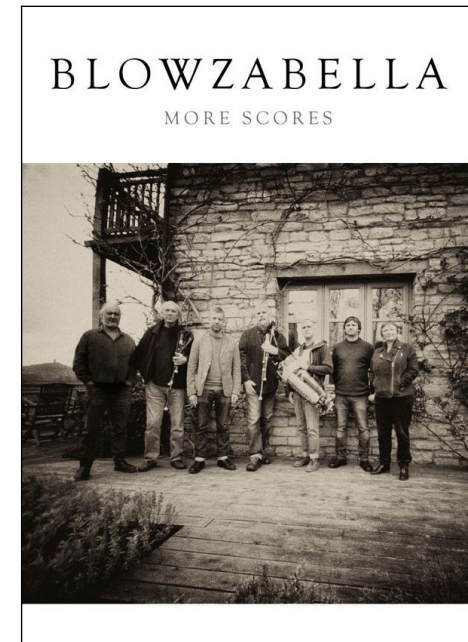
Recorded by Joe Garcia. Kennard Moor Drove, Coxbridge, Somerset, England, March and November 2017. Thanks Sarah Orme. Mixed by Joe Garcia at Joe's Garage, Bristol, November and December 2017. Mastered in the USA by James Plotkin. Pinhole camera photography by Paul Woloschuk. Design by Natalie Peter-Budge.

All the music on this album is included in the Blowzabella tune book 'More Scores'
The copyright in these sound recordings is the property of Blowzabella, 2018.

RECENT TUNE BOOK: MORE SCORES

This is Blowzabella's third book of tunes. It is pulished due to demand from people who like the band and play all kinds of instruments at all levels of ability. The book hoovers up all the tunes the band members composed between 2013 and 2018 in a print edition and an online download edition.

Both available from www.blowzabella.co.uk



BLOWZABELLA DISCOGRAPHY AND BOOKS

Two Score. Blowzabella4. 2018. Andy Cutting, Jo Freya, Paul James, Gregory Jolivet, Dave Shepherd, Barn Stradling, Jon Swayne.

BOOK - More Scores. 2018. All the Blowzabella tunes composed since 2007.

Strange News. Blowzabella3. 2013. Andy Cutting, Jo Freya, Paul James, Gregory Jolivet, Dave Shepherd, Barn Stradling, Jon Swayne.

Dance. Blowzabella2. 2010 Andy Cutting, Jo Freya, Paul James, Gregory Jolivet, Dave Shepherd, Barn Stradling, Jon Swayne.

Octomento. Blowzabella1. 2007. Andy Cutting, Jo Freya, Paul James, Gregory Jolivet, Dave Shepherd, Barn Stradling, Jon Swayne.

BOOK - New Tunes for Dancing. 2004. Blowzabella tune and dance book.

Compilation. Compilation from studio albums 1982-1990. Osmosys Records OSMO CD001. 1995.

Vanilla. Special Delivery SPDCD 1028. 1990. Andy Cutting, Nigel Eaton, Jo Freya, Paul James, Ian Luff, Dave Shepherd, Jon Swayne.

A Richer Dust. Plant Life Records PLCD 080. 1988. Reissued : Osmosys Records OSMO CD010. 1996. Nigel Eaton, Jo Freya, Paul James, Ian Luff, Dave Roberts, Dave Shepherd, Jon Swayne.

Pingha Frenzy. Recorded live on tour in Brazil. Some Bizzare GHCD 1. 1988. Nigel Eaton, Paul James, Ian Luff, Dave Roberts, Dave Shepherd.

The B to A of Blowzabella. BZB01. 1986. Nigel Eaton, Paul James, Ian Luff, Dave Roberts, Dave Shepherd, Jon Swayne.

BOOK - Encyclopaedia Blowzabellica. Blowzabella tune and dance book. pub: Dragonfly Music. 1986. Reprinted 2004.

Wall Of Sound. Plant Life Records PLR074. 1986. Reissued : Osmosys Records OSMO CD005. 1996. Nigel Eaton, Paul James, Ian Luff, Dave Roberts, Dave Shepherd, Jon Swayne.

Bobbityshooty. Plant Life Records PLR064. 1984. Reissued : Osmosys Records OSMO CD015. 1998. Dave Armitage, Paul James, Dave Roberts, Dave Shepherd, Cliff Stapleton, Jon Swayne.

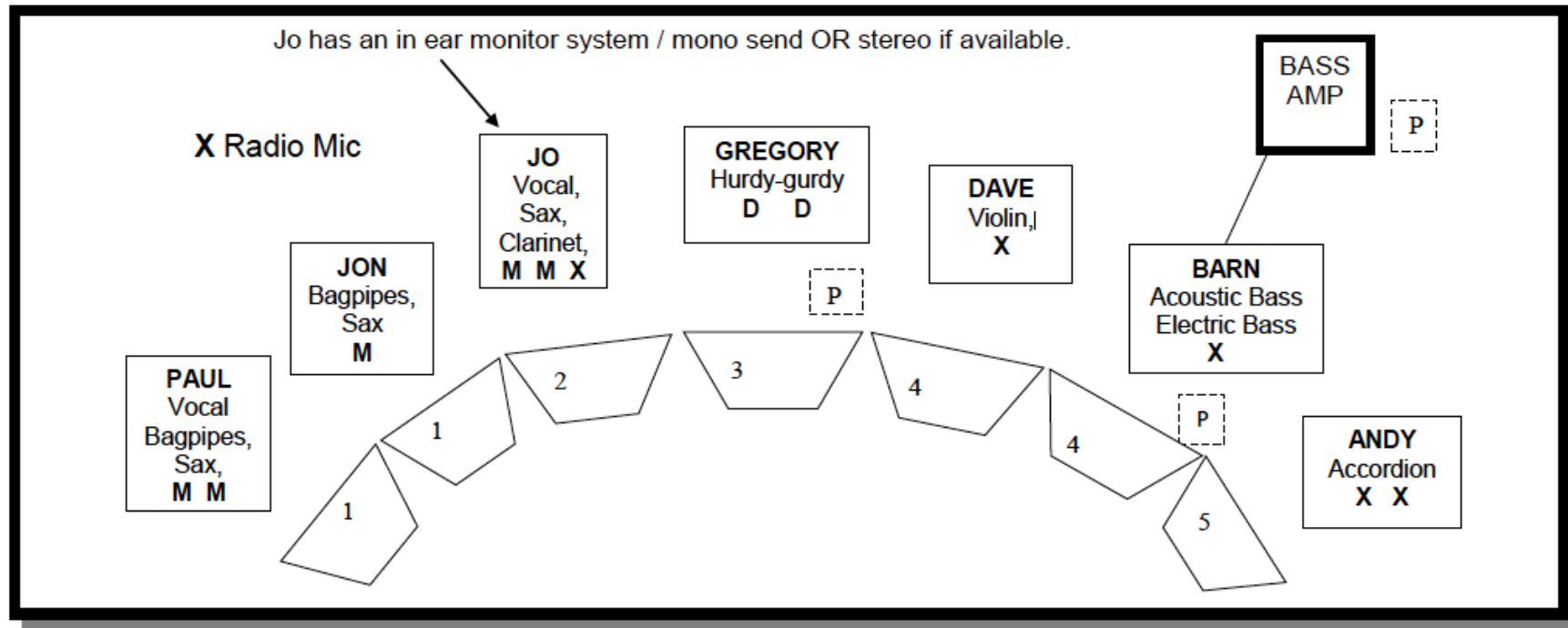
Tam Lin. Frankie Armstrong and Blowzabella. Plant Life Records PLR063. 1984. Frankie Armstrong, Brian Pearson, Jon Gillaspie, Dave Armitage, Paul James, Dave Roberts, Dave Shepherd, Cliff Stapleton, Jon Swayne.

In Colour. Plant Life Records. PLR051. 1983. Dave Armitage, Paul James, Sam Palmer, Dave Roberts, Dave Shepherd, Cliff Stapleton, Jon Swayne.

Traditional Dance Music. Plant Life Records. PLR 038. 1982. Chris Gunstone, Paul James, Sam Palmer, Dave Roberts, Cliff Stapleton, Jon Swayne.

TECHNICAL INFORMATIONS FOR EVENT ORGANISERS

STAGE PLAN



- AUDIENCE -

- M = microphone
- X = XLR cable
- D = DI Box
- Monitor.
- P = 13amp power supply

CHANNEL LIST

1	Vocals / whistle	Mic		Vocal condenser or SM58	Tall boom stand	PAUL
2	Bagpipes / sax	Mic		Instrument condenser or dynamic	Tall boom stand	
3	Bagpipes / sax	Mic		Instrument condenser or dynamic	Tall boom stand	JON
4	Vocals / whistle	Mic		Vocal condenser or SM58	Tall boom stand	JO
5	Sax / clarinet	Mic		Instrument condenser or dynamic	Short boom stand	
6	Bass clarinet	XLR	+ 48v	RAMSA clip on mic		
7	Hurdy-gurdy	DI box		Mini-mixer – melody		GREG
8		DI box		Mini-mixer – drones / rhythm		
9	Violin	XLR	+ 48v	DPA mic		DAVE
10	Electric & Acoustic bass guitars	XLR		From DI output of pedal board		BARN
11	Accordion	XLR	+ 48v	Melody. DPA mic		ANDY
12		XLR		Bass. Internal mic		
13	Announcements	Radio Mic		For the whole band to share		ALL

Bagpipes. Saxes, Clarinet : Condenser mics (e.g. Neumann 184) OR dynamic mics (e.g. Shure SM57, Beyer M88).

Bass Clarinet : RAMSA clip on mic. 1 XLR cable.

Hurdy-Gurdy : Mini-mixer. 2 X DI boxes. 13a power supply by monitor.

Bass : XLR cable to pedal board for 1 X electric bass guitar, 1 X acoustic bass guitar. 13a power supply by monitor.

Violin: DPA violin condenser microphone system. 1 XLR cable.

Accordion : Accordion microphone system. 2 XLR cables.

Backline. UK: We will bring a bass amp.

MINIMUM STAGE, SOUND & LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS

PERFORMANCE SPACE		Minimum stage space of 8M wide X 4M deep that is free of other band's drum risers, keyboards, backline, instruments.
PA SYSTEM		A professional standard, full range, system to provide consistent coverage everywhere in the venue/auditorium.
Digital mixing desk	13	13 Channels.
Outboard/Inboard		Reverb/delay. At least 4 channels of compression/gates/limiters. EQ control of FoH system and each monitor send.
Monitors	7	Monitors. 6 is possible if stage space is tight.
In ear monitors	1	Jo has her own in ear monitor system. A mono send or stereo send if available.
Monitor sends	5	5 sends (see stage plan). 4 sends is possible.
Microphones	3	Instrument mics.
	2	Vocal microphone.
	1	Radio microphone
DI	2	DI boxes.
	5	XLR cables to connect to our instrument mic systems and don't need DI boxes.
Mic Stands	4	Tall boom stands.
	1	Short boom stand.
BACKLINE		BASS AMP. We will bring our bass amp/cab for bass guitar.
LIGHTING		We have no specific requirements except that all the musicians need to be equally lit. We like strong warm colours. Lighting movements/changes to be subtle, not frantic!

CONTACT

General enquiries (gigs, merchandise, questions)

Jo Freya, info@haremusic.agency, +44 79 00 21 54 19

Blowzabella en France

Le Grand Barbichon Productions, <https://www.legrandbarbichonprod.com/>

Blowzabella in Deutschland, Österreich und der Schweiz

Diverted Music, Christina Sanoll, info@divertedmusic.at, +43 69 91 14 17 413

Website, social media, archives, stage plan and technical rider

Paul James, pauljames.eu@gmail.com, +44 78 87 94 88 53

CD distribution and digital distribution

Kudos Records Ltd., Luke Owen, luke@kudosrecords.co.uk, +44 20 7482 4555

Booking 2021

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