

Clive Gregson - Bio

Clive Gregson was born on 4th January 1955 in Ashton-under-Lyne, Manchester, England and grew up in the area. Raised on a diet of sixties British pop, he started a band called Any Trouble during his late seventies college years. Signed to Stiff Records, famous for signing numerous punk groups during the that era, their debut album, "**Where are all the Nice Girls?**" was produced by John Wood. About a month after completing the band's debut album, at Wood's wedding Clive met Richard And Linda Thompson. They kept in touch and while Any Trouble made another four recordings including their double disc, swan song, "**Wrong End Of The Race**," in 1982 Clive worked on the sessions for the Thompson's "**Shoot Out The Lights**." Any Trouble broke up in December 1984, and the following year Gregson began working on his first solo album, "**Strange Persuasions**." Concurrent with the foregoing events, Gregson heard Christine Collister sing in a Manchester folk club. He was impressed enough by what he heard, to engage her in conversation, in terms of furthering her performing career. Collister sang backing vocals on Clive's debut, and when "**Across A Crowded Room**" [1985] was being recorded Clive persuaded Richard Thompson to bring in Collister. When Thompson took the album on the road, Gregson and Collister became band members. That road and studio arrangement continued until Thompson's 1991 album "**Rumour & Sigh**."

At the end of 1985, and based on Thompson's suggestion, Gregson and Collister played a series of folk club dates as a duo. Gregson's intention at the time was to start another band, while his plan for Collister was for her to work as a solo artist. Such was their instantaneous popularity, that the ad hoc arrangement became a working unit for the ensuing seven years. Beginning with "**Home And Away**" which was recorded on a shoestring budget at a series of folk club shows, and initially released on cassette, the pair went on to make a total of five recordings. "**Welcome To The Workhouse**," Clive's second solo album, appeared in 1990 while they were still working together, and was composed mainly of demos that had been cut during the first half of the eighties. Clive and Chris parted company at the end of 1992, and the following year he formed a trio with Boo Hewerdine [ex-Bible and a 1989 duo with Darden Smith] and Eddi Reader [ex-Fairground Attraction]. Only one single resulted from this association, although there were plans to record an album at one stage. Trio reunions continued throughout the nineteen nineties.

In late 1993 Clive left England and moved initially to Minneapolis and subsequently Nashville. Clive's next solo offering "**Carousel Of Noise**" [1994] amounted to an official bootleg, consisting of tracks cut in his home studio and at a couple of his British shows. His first studio album in almost a decade "**People And Places**" arrived in 1995. It also launched his relationship with the then new Nashville based, independent label, Compass Records. The following year saw the release of Clive's "**I Love This Town**," and that September he was in Dublin taking part in sessions for Nanci Griffith's "**Other Voices, Too....**" album. Gregson also appeared with Griffith on her subsequent tour to promote the album. 1997 brought Clive a Nashville Music Award nomination in the Artist/Songwriter category. Having started to tour throughout the US a couple of years earlier, in March 1997 Gregson performed in Japan for the first time. Following the departure of Julian Dawson from the revamped version of Plainsong, Clive was asked to join the band for a European tour. The four-track disc "**Live In Austria**" was cut during that tour. Before the band decided to part ways once more, at the end of last century, Clive appeared with Iain Matthews, Andy Roberts and Mark Griffiths on "**New Place Now**" cut in Austin, Texas. While touring the UK in support of the foregoing Plainsong album, his own solo recording "**Happy Hour**" was released by Cumberland based, Fellside Records. Gregson left Plainsong following their 1999 UK tour. "**Comfort & Joy**," Clive's first 21st century offering was also a Fellside release, as was "**Long Short Story**." Now undertaking regular tours of Europe, the US and Japan, Rolling Stone magazine dubbed Gregson, "*the state of the art in British folk-rock.*"

"**Home And Away**" was reissued in the UK on CD, by Gott Records, during mid July 2006 and featured retrospective liner notes penned by Gregson. The aforementioned sleeve notes were penned in Wimberley, Texas a town that's rapidly becoming a haven for musicians. In recent times, as well as touring as a solo act, Gregson has toured as part of Nanci Griffiths' Blue Moon Orchestra. In late 2006 a seventeen-song compilation, "**The Best Of Clive Gregson & Christine Collister**" was released by Gott Records, and the following Spring the Gott label issued a fifteen track version of "**Mischief**." The original U.K. version had featured eleven tracks, while fourteen tracks appeared on the Stateside Rhino Records release. Gott reissued the U.S. version enhanced by the 'alternate' U.K. version of the lead track "I Wouldn't Treat A Dog."

Discography :

Clive Gregson – **“Strange Persuasion”** [1985] ; **“Welcome To The Workhouse”** [1990] ; **“Carousel Of Noise”** [1994] ; **“People And Places”** [1995] ; **“I Love This Town”** [1996] ; **“Happy Hour”** [1999] ; **“Comfort & Joy”** [2001] ; **“Long Short Story”** [2004] :

with Gregson & Collister – **“Home And Away”** [1987] ; **“Mischief”** [1987] ; **“A Change In The Weather”** [1989] ; **“Love Is A Strange Hotel”** [1990] ; **“The Last Word”** [1992] ; **“The Best Of Clive Gregson & Christine Collister”** [2006] :

with Any Trouble – **“Where Are All The Nice Girls?”** [1980] ; **“Wheels In Motion”** [1981] ; **“Live At The Venue”** [1981] ; **“Any Trouble”** [1983] ; **“Wrong End Of The Race”** [1984].

with Gregson, Hewerdine & Reader – **“Wonderful Lie”** (CD Single) [1983].

with Plainsong – **“Live In Austria”** (mini album) [1997] ; **“New Place Now”** [1999] :

Arthur Wood

Kerrville Kronikles 01/02, 03/04, 11/06 & 06/07

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