

Christine Collister - Bio

Christine Collister was born on 28th December 1961 in Douglas, Isle of Man. She rose to national and international prominence when she teamed up with Clive Gregson, formerly of the late seventies/early eighties Brit Pop combo, Any Trouble. After moving to the UK and prior to joining Gregson, Christine had worked as a singer/guitarist in Italian restaurants in Manchester, and as a session singer on the local commercial station, Piccadilly Radio.

Gregson had already launched his solo recording career, when their initial, cassette only, album **"Home & Away"** appeared in 1986. They soon became regular performers on the British folk club scene, and in time moved on to tour Europe, USA, Canada, Japan and Australia. Following the appearance of their appropriately title, fifth disc, **"The Last Word,"** the duo split up in early 1992. Gregson eventually relocated to Nashville and set about pursuing his solo career once more, and recorded a number of albums for Compass Records. Concurrent with their stint as a duo, Clive n' Christine were also members of the Richard Thompson Band, a musical association that saw them undertake tours on a national and international basis.

In late 1992 Christine joined Barb Jungr, Michael Parker and Ian Shaw in the band, Hell Bent, Heaven Bound. The following year, Version II of the quartet saw Helen Watson take Shaw's place. Specialising in four part harmonies, they performed sell out tours of the UK and Canada. Barb Jungr and Christine, along with Heather Joyce, also worked for a short time as The Jailbirds. Collister first toured the UK as a solo artist in 1994. Returning to her birthplace, and The Gaiety Theatre, Douglas, Collister launched her solo recording career in 1994 with **"Live"** which was released by Fledgling Records. During 1995 Christine supported Richard Thompson on a major tour of the British Isles. The following year she toured and recorded with the female super group Daphne's Flight' who went on to release a highly praised self-titled album for the Fledgling label. The group was composed of Christine, Helen Watson, Melanie Harrold, Chris While and Julie Matthews, and they teamed up again for an appearance at the 2003 Prebendal Festival in Bishopstone, Swindon.

Collister's subsequent solo albums **"Blue Aconite"** [1996], **"The Dark Gift Of Time"** [1998] and the part compilation/part new work **"Songbird"** [1999], all served to further increase her stature as a stunning vocalist and engaging live performer. During the last two decades Christine has also provided backing vocals on albums by Richard Thompson, London Wainwright III, Mark Germino and Bert Jansch.

Touring arts centres and small theatres on a regular basis, as a solo act, come summertime, Christine regularly undertakes appearances at major music festivals as diverse as Glastonbury, Winnipeg, Hong Kong and Cambridge. Following four solo albums for the Fledgling label, at the dawn of the new millennium Christine signed with that stalwart chronicler of the British folk scene, Topic Records. Her debut album for that imprint, **"An Equal Love,"** was released in the UK during May 2001. **"Into The Light,"** her sophomore release for the label was released in the UK in the Fall of 2002.

Moving next to the Stereoscout label, **"Home"** was a live album recorded at venues on the Isle of Man, and this enhanced disc included an interview with Collister, plus a picture gallery and promo video for "Vincent." The main portion of the DVD release **"XX"** was a 60-minute long retrospective documentary that marked Christine's twentieth year in the music business, and included interviews with BBC Radio 2 dj Bob Harris, as well as past collaborators Richard Thompson and Clive Gregson. **"Love,"** Christine's third Stereoscout release, and her sophomore album for the imprint, was released on CD and vinyl. Credited to Christine Collister, Dave Kelly and the Travelling Gentlemen **"Live"** was recorded during their 2005 UK tour. **"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. 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."

Note. Geographically, the Isle of Man is located on the Irish Sea, between mainland England and Ireland.

Discography :

with Clive Gregson - **“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 Daphne's Flight – **“Daphne's Flight”** [1996] :

Solo - : **“Live”** [1994] ; **“Blue Aconite”** [1996] ; **“The Dark Gift Of Time”** [1998] ; **“Songbird”** [1999] ; **“An Equal Love”** [2001] ; **“Into The Light”** [2002] ; **“Home”** [2003] ; **“Love”** [2006] ; **“Live”** [2006] :

DVD – **“XX”** [2004] :

Arthur Wood

Kerrville Kronikles 08/01 & 10/02, 12/02, 07/06, 11/06 & 07/07

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