

Bill Jones – Bio

Belinda “Bill” Jones was born in Staffordshire in 1974. Her father, a fiddle player, had a Ceilidh band and Jones spent her teenage years performing with him. In addition she’s a classically trained piano player and flautist, and also plays accordion and penny whistle. Aged eleven she attended St. Mary and St. Anne’s School in Rugeley, Staffordshire which has it’s own dedicated music programme. During her years there she was a member of the school orchestra, chamber music group, church choir, choral society and various classical ensembles. Raised on a diet of sixties pop and folk music, by her late teens Bill began looking for a freer form of music and went on to study jazz piano at London’s City University.

In London, circa 1994 through 1996, and a member of the *indie* band, The Wise Wound, Jones adopted the stage persona of “Bill.” Bill played keyboards in this acoustic based band, and has described their music as “*orchestrated punk*.” During this time Jones learned to play the accordion. In her final year at university [1996], one of Bill’s modules was titled “British & European Folk Music.” Her discovery of a wealth of material in the British/European folk tradition was tantamount to a revelation. Folk music literally became her focus overnight.

Post university, Jones enrolled in the annual Folkworks summer school in Durham, and she eventually settled in North-East England, taught the flute and became involved in the Newcastle folk scene. Bill initially worked in a duo with guitarist Steve Moffatt, and when they split up Jones decided to pursue a solo career.

In 1999 Jones successfully applied for a grant from the Princes Trust [*], as a “*self employed music tutor and performer*.” She performed her first solo gig at South Shields Folk Club, South Tyneside in May 1999. In September 2000, she gave up teaching and began concentrating on her career as a performer. In the 2001 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, Bill Jones was presented with the “Horizon Award Best New Artist.” In 2002 she toured America with Aoife Clancy [Bobby Clancy’s daughter, and former lead singer in Cherish The Ladies] and Anne Hills, as the trio Faire Winds. They are scheduled to tour the UK in the Fall of 2003. November 2002, Jones toured Japan with Nancy Kerr and James Fagan.

To date Jones has released five discs, including an EP and a *live* disc, the latter recorded at The Live Theatre in Newcastle Upon Tyne. “**Live At The Live**” includes “Never Be Mine” penned by Kate Bush. Jones’ recordings are released in the States by Nashville based, Compass Records. “**Panchpuran**” was produced by Karen Tweed [The Poozies and solo], while Jones produced her latest collection “**Two Year Winter**,” and it was issued in the summer of 2003.

Note.

[*] – Launched by Prince Charles [Prince of Wales] in 1976, the Trust offers young people training, personal development, support, mentoring and advice as well an opportunity to set themselves up in business by means of financial assistance.

Discography :

“**Turn To Me**” [2000] ; “**Panchpuran**” [2001] ; “**Bits & Pieces**” an EP [2001] ; “**Live At The Live**” [2002] ; “**Two Year Winter**” [2003] :

Arthur Wood.

Kerrville Kronikles 07/03

[460 words]