

## The Dylan Project – Bio

The Dylan Project consists of lead vocalist Steve Gibbons, Gerry Conway [drums, percussion], Simon Nicol [guitar], Dave Pegg [bass] and P. J. Wright [slide guitar, electric guitar, pedal steel]. During the mid nineteen sixties, for a short time, Pegg was a member of Birmingham, England based band The Uglys of which Gibbons was lead vocalist. Pegg was a band member for a year before joining the Ian Campbell Group, and in 1968 he became a member of the fifth incarnation of Fairport Convention, a band that he remains with to this day. In the process, Pegg worked alongside founding Fairport, Simon Nicol, and much later – circa 1998 – with drummer Gerry Conway [Pentangle]. Wright has been guitarist in the Steve Gibbons Band since the early 1980's, and, these days, in addition to working with Steve and the Project, also performs with Dave as Peggy & P. J., and with his band Acoustic Johnny England [formerly Little Johnny England].

It transpires that Steve first heard **“The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan”** while performing a residency with The Uglys at a music club in Germany. Back in the halcyon days of the Kings Heath, Birmingham music venue The Breedon Bar, during the late 1980's, Bob Moore the proprietor held a Bob Dylan tribute concert. Steve Gibbons' performance at that event was outstanding. Segue forward almost a decade and the Woodworm Records label, once the outlet for all things Fairport, released the Steve Gibbons solo album **“The Dylan Project.”** Pegg had offered to produce the recording after Gibbons intimated a long unfulfilled ambition to cover Dylan songs on an album. Guest contributors to **“The Dylan Project”** sessions included current Fairports Chris Leslie and Ric Sanders, Maartin Allcock [ex-Fairport, ex-Jethro Tull], plus Ben Bennion and Mick Bullard of Freeway Jam. As for the songs that appeared on **“The Dylan Project,”** the album opened with Gibbons own “Colours To The Mast,” and included fourteen far from obvious choices from the Bobster's catalogue.

A couple of years later, augmented by keyboard player John 'Rabbit' Bundrick [Free, The Who], the band's performance at the 1999 Cropredy Festival, the annual reunion of all things Fairport, was captured on **“The Dylan Project Live At Cropredy Festival 1999.”** Complete with bonus tracks, the group's debut and sophomore discs were reissued as a 2CD set by The Road Goes On Forever record label during the summer of 2008.

Featuring Phil Bond on keyboards, **“The Dylan Project 2”** was released by Matty Grooves Records to coincide with the band's appearance at the 2005 Cropredy Festival. During the last decade the band has annually toured arts centres, concert halls and theatres in the UK, performed in Europe and appeared at numerous open-air summer festivals.

Discography : **“The Dylan Project”** [1998] ; **“The Dylan Project Live At Cropredy”** [2000] ; **“The Dylan Project 2”** [2005] :

**Arthur Wood**

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