

## Bob Fox – Bio

During the early nineteen-seventies, Bob Fox's contribution to folk music was that of a floor singer in the folk clubs of his native North East England. During this period, he became the resident singer at the Davylamp Folk Club in Washington, Tyne & Wear. In 1975 Fox met another North Eastern musician, Tom McConville [later, briefly in Magna Carta before working with Kieran Halpin and forming Dab Hand], and the pair worked as a duo for two years. They performed a mix of Irish and Scottish dance music and traditional North East songs, with Tom on fiddle and Bob on guitar and piano.

When that duo split up, Fox got together with ex-Hedgehog Pie member, Stu Luckley. Luckley [guitar, bass] had joined the Newcastle Upon Tyne blues/folk/ragtime group in 1972, and appeared on the albums **"Hedgehog Pie"** [1975] and **"The Green Lady"** [1976]. In 1978, in the now defunct British, weekly music magazine, Melody Maker, Colin Irwin described the pair, who performed traditional North East songs, as *"the progressive dynamic duo"* and continued *"Great White Hopes of Folk are such a rarity you'll forgive us for making an excessive fuss when we encounter one, two even !"* Their debut album **"Nowt So Good'll Pass"** was issued that year and was voted Folk Album of the year by Melody Maker. The pair toured UK folk clubs and also ventured abroad to Germany, Holland, Australia and New Zealand. They played at major summer festivals such as Cambridge, Cropredy and Fylde, and were the support act on British tours by Richard and Linda Thompson and Ralph McTell. It was on the Thompson tour that Fox met current Fairport Convention leader, Dave Pegg. Immediately prior to splitting up, Fox and Luckley recorded their cleverly titled sophomore album, **"Wish We Had Never Parted."**

Over the next decade and a half, Fox worked as a solo artist once more, was the singer/keyboard player in Celtic Band The Rub – who made an album that was never released, joined the short lived Vin Garbutt Band, and was Folk Artist in Residence for the District of Blyth Valley and Music Development Worker for Easington District Council. Discovering an archive of photographs depicting life in the coal mining communities in Durham and Northumberland, together with Benny Graham, in 1997 the pair, initially, co-produced an audio-visual show, and then recorded the mining song album **"How Are You Off For Coals."** Released by Fellside Records, the following year Fox and Luckley reunited to record fourteen songs from their earlier recordings. Titled **"Box Of Gold,"** the album was also a Fellside release.

Returning to the role of solo artist Fox was the special guest on Fairport Convention's February Y2K tour of the UK, and later that year, a *mere thirty years* after making his debut as a folk club floor singer, cut his debut solo album, **"Dreams Never Leave You"** for Woodworm Records, the Fairport label. He played Cropredy in August that year, continued to playing UK folk clubs and toured Holland as well as Canada, USA, Australia and Hong Kong. In the summer of 2001, Fox, took the role of vocalist, alongside guitarist/bouzouki player Jed Grimes [ex-Hedgehog Pie], when they formed the band, The Hush. The remaining line-up consists of Paul Smith [drums, perc.] and Neil Harland [bass], Graham Wood [keyboards] and Gary Linsley [sax]. Focusing on traditional material, as well as contemporary songs from the North East, written during the last two hundred years, this dance band lends a jazz tinged reading to those tunes. The Hush issued an album titled **"Dark To The Sky"** in August 2002.

Signed to Topic Records, Fox's second solo album **"Borrowed Time,"** a mix of traditional and contemporary songs was issued in the late summer of 2003.

### Discography :

Solo : **"Nowt So Good'll Pass"** with Stu Luckley [1978] ; **"Wish We Had Never Parted"** with Stu Luckley [1982] ; **"How Are You Off For Coals"** Bob Fox & Benny Graham [1997] ; **"Box Of Gold"** with Stu Luckley [1998] ; **"Dreams Never Leave You"** [2000] ; **"Dark To The Sky"** The Hush featuring Bob Fox [2002] ; **"Borrowed Time"** [2003] :

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