

James Raynard – Bio

James Raynard is an English born folk singer, guitarist and fiddle player, based in Yorkshire, with a deep interest in the United Kingdom's folklore. That interest was sparked, curiously, when he heard the music of Bob Dylan in his early twenties. So deep became his interest, that Raynard subsequently took a degree course in the subject at Yorkshire's Sheffield University. While completing the course, James formed a friendship with the British folk legend, Martin Carthy. Of Raynard, Carthy has been quoted as saying "*He is inquisitive, passionate and brave. He is willing to take the sort of chances which makes music an exciting place in which to work.*" Carthy was one of the course tutors, as was violinist Gina Le Faux, who herself had once been a pupil of renowned traditional fiddle player and singer, James Carmichael of Ballymena. While studying for his folklore degree, Raynard often performed alongside traditional English folk players such as John Kirkpatrick [accordion/melodeon] and his son, Benji Kirkpatrick [guitar/bouzouki], Eddie Upton [concertina/mouth organ] and Rob Harbron [concertina].

In recent times Raynard has worked as an accompanist at traditional dances. His debut album "**Strange Histories**" was recorded at Kinnersley Castle in Herefordshire during the Spring of 2005, and produced by new English folk music *wunderkind*, Jim Moray [real name, Doug Oates]. Where Moray's 2003 debut album "**Sweet England**" supported traditional English folk songs with the sound of acoustic and electric instruments and tape loops, Raynard's approach is strictly acoustic and traditional. "**Strange Histories**" was launched at the 2005 Cambridge Folk Festival in late July, the UK's premier annual folk event. Raynard's debut album was the first release on the Uearthed label, a subsidiary of One Little Indian Records. The new label will focus on – according to a press release - "*folk releases from the bright new things in the world of traditional and contemporary folk music.*"

Discography : "**Strange Histories**" [2005] :

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