



India blue

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## Bio

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I am a contemporary folk (or as I prefer: Faerie-Folk) musician and songwriter based in the South East of England. Drawing inspiration from spirituality, history, folk tales, nature and the complexities of being 'human.' Mainly self-accompanied by my piano, harp and many other instruments (6 right now, but constantly counting) I have just self-released my debut studio album 'The Circus Came and Left' which was patiently awaited, and highly acclaimed, including this statement from Nick Pelling of the Hastings Independent Press *"It may well become a folk classic."*

I was introduced to the piano at aged 5, and in those first lessons began writing songs about faeries with help from my teacher Carla Smith. My first ever gigs at aged 11 were as a support act for her, at places like Revelation (Ashford) and the Sinden Theatre (Tenterden.)

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St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex, UK

+44 7946043919

indiabluemusic@gmail.com

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I began playing at small eco, pagan and hippie festivals in 2015, and by 2019 I was playing around 11 festivals a Summer!

In between the first gigs, and these Festivals I was accredited with Winner of the Equator Music Contest (2014), shortlisted for Young Songwriter of the Year (2015) and Area finalist of Open Mic UK (2016).

I also had the opportunity play in some fantastic venues such as The Hastings Pinao Festival and Folkestone Quaterhouse. As well as supporting Jo Beth Young for her 'Strangers' album launch (2019) and Guy Chambers on his Into The Light tour (2020)

# The CIRCUS CAME AND Left



The Circus Came and Left is my first studio album, after having hand burned, lino printed and self-distributed around 200 live recorded albums titled 'Live at Small World' the years prior.

The 13 songs that feature were all written solely by myself from 2019-2021. I recorded the album in the home studio of my producer and fellow musician Tom Clarkson. Recording was a heart opening experience, intertwined with cavalo nero pasta, deep yogic breaths and dances with his 2 year old daughter.

The album being partially Crowdfunded was well anticipated by my fan-base and has already been played on BBC Introducing. Being described by Melita Dennett as "The beautiful and delicate sound of India Blue

The songs are an exploration of spirituality, past-lives, love, loss and hope. Or in the words of Nick Pelling - Hastings Independent Press "*The piano veers between mournful and exotic; the voice is somehow frail and supple at the same time; the lyrics go down all manner of dark rabbit holes.*"

The album features some talented local musicians including Bev Lee Harling (Violin), Tom Clarskon (Bass and Electric Guitar), Tom Uragallo (Bohran) and Sarah Vincent (Trombone).

The artwork is a combination of work from Natalie Wyborn (Photography), Lily Gould (Illustration and Typography) and Karl TerryRSMA (Oil Painting)

My favourite part of the process was recording the piano on a magnificent old Steinway in an old original Burton manor (the man who built St Leonards!) 'We're Free' was the only song fully recorded in this space, it was my rendition of a Mantra, and we got it in maybe one or two takes. I feel that songs are capsules, containing the energy of their words, the time when they were written, and also recorded. I feel this album truly holds support, insight and creative power for all who listen to receive.



# FAQ's

## **- Who are you?**

A contemporary folk musician and multi-instrumentalist (as well as Yoga Teacher, bread baker and mushroom lover.)

## **- How did you start out?**

I started writing songs on the piano at aged 5, began gigging at 11, taught myself a variety of instruments including the harp at 15, went to BIMM for a year at 16 and playing many, festivals, gigs and open mics.

## **- Who are your main influences?**

My Uncle 'Jon Woode' inspired me to write and play original music, he is a fantastic folk musician and songwriter. I am inspired by the likes of Vashti Bunyan, Fiona Apple, and Joanna Newsom. My main songwriting influence is Leonard Cohen (best songwriter who ever existed.)

## **- What are you doing now?**

At the moment I am enjoying listening and learning from many fantastic folk musicians and writing lots so that I can keep on making music. I'm getting ready to release some new songs soon also. And planning and playing lots of live gigs and festivals.

## **- Where can people find you?**

On most of the social platforms (although I can't understand TikTok or Twitter) or stomping through a glen with dowsing rods; trying to find a spring.