

# THE BEVVY SISTERS



Mixing some of the headiest musical cocktails your ears will ever imbibe, Scottish vocal harmony group The Bevvvy Sisters unites three richly seasoned female voices with a superb backing line-up, in a genre-spanning array of classy original songwriting, vibrant vintage folk and reinvented contemporary covers. The spellbinding, uncannily intuitive chemistry between singers Heather Macleod, Kaela Rowan and Lindsey Black has won a string of glowing reviews and extensive UK radio play for their debut album *St James Sessions*, recorded live and launched in early 2010 with a sellout show at the world-famous Celtic Connections festival in Glasgow.

**“A set that started off excellent, progressed swiftly to stunning, and fetched up positively spectacular” (The Scotsman, UK, live review, Celtic Connections 2010)**

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Based in Edinburgh, The Bevvvy Sisters originally formed in 2006 as lead vocalists with the 17-piece Loveboat Big Band, an occasional all-star swing project drawn from several top Scottish acts. Swiftly discovering the kind of mutual musical empathy that’s usually exclusive to family bands, they debuted under their own name in 2008 – a name which simultaneously references both the vocal glories and vintage glamour of such forebears as The Boswell Sisters, The Andrews Sisters and The Beverley Sisters, plus the Bevvvys’ own inimitable party spirit. (bevvvy ■ n. Scottish, informal 1 alcoholic drink, liquor. 2 a drinking session. DERIVATIVES bevvvied adj.)

**“Harmonies as lethal as the free cocktails they serve” (The Scotsman, UK, live review, Edinburgh Festival 2008) \*\*\*\*\***

Since then, the band have gigged widely around Scotland, including headline appearances at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the Big Tent Festival, the Orkney Folk Festival and the Northern Routes festival, as well as featuring on Eliza Carthy’s acclaimed 2008 album *Dreams of Breathing Underwater*. Besides their own show, Celtic Connections 2010 also saw

them recruited on backing vocals for a new collaboration between English folk legend Dave Swarbrick, Canadian reggae star Jason Wilson and the great Scottish singer Dick Gaughan – having learned and arranged the entire set within a week. The album’s release generated airplay on BBC Radio 2, Radio 3 and Radio Scotland, as well as local and commercial stations, and was followed by a live session on Radio 3’s heralded World on Three.

Though relatively new as a band, The Bevvys combine a vast wealth of experience across diverse musical territories. Originally from the Isle of Lewis, Heather paid her dues in the 1990s Aberdeen blues-jam scene before moving to Edinburgh, where she’s worked in styles from folk through world music to jazz, releasing her highly acclaimed solo debut, *Crossing Tides*, in 2005. Kaela grew up immersed in her native Highland traditions, going on to tour internationally with the seminal Scottish folk/fusion outfit Mouth Music, as well as recording and performing with the likes of Capercaillie and Michael McGoldrick. Lindsey has long been known as a singers’ singer on Edinburgh’s alternative music scene, mainly through fronting her own band, Pollen, but also with the Afro/Celtic 10-piece La Boum! Completing the line-up are percussionist James Mackintosh (Shooglenifty/Michael McGoldrick Band), guitarist David Donnelly (Salsa Celtica/Finlay Quaye) and double bassist Emma Smith (Gorillaz, Eliza Carthy Band).

**“These are the harmonies heard when men had shooters under their suits and women on their arms. Radio-era chic, now retro cool. The Bevvys are reinventing the genre and covering all exits.” (Scotland on Sunday, UK, album review, Feb 2010)**

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