

ADAM HOLMES and the EMBERS

Cambridge Folk Festival Showcase for hotly-tipped Edinburgh band



John Wood: "It's seldom that an album I record is such a pleasure to work on as Adam's *Heirs and Graces*. One could well be surprised that this is the work of a 23-year-old making his first album, such is the assuredness of his performance and the timeless quality of the material."

2014 started well for up and coming young singer/songwriter Adam Holmes, with his John Wood produced debut album *Heirs and Graces* launching at Glasgow's Celtic Connections, followed by a performance at Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall.

The year just got even more exciting with a live session on the highly respected **BBC Radio 2 Folk Show** – to be broadcast on 9 April - and the announcement that he has secured 1 of the 5 sought-after showcase slots at the prestigious **Cambridge Folk Festival** (celebrating its 50th anniversary this year). Each year Cambridge selects just 5 artists, which it thinks will go on to great things in the future, including a place on the following year's main bill for at least one of the acts. Previous showcase artists include **Cara Dillon, Karine Polwart, Seth Lakeman, the Staves** and 2014 Folk Singer of the Year **Bella Hardy**. This will be Adam's second appearance at Cambridge Folk Festival, the first being in 2009 as part of the Muckle Loons, a band comprised of Adam and other young Musician of the Year finalists.

Other gigs in 2014 include **Shetland Folk Festival** and a showcase at the **Queens Hall Edinburgh**. He will also perform with **Rachel Sermanni, Aoife O'Donovan**, an all star house band and the Inverness Gaelic Choir (conducted by Mary Ann Kennedy) at the **Northern Roots Festival** at Eden Court.

One of the brightest rising stars on today's Scottish music scene, the 23-year-old is a singer and songwriter of rare and timeless potency, drawing on influences from either side of the Atlantic. Starting out on fiddle, Edinburgh-born Holmes switched to guitar at 14, and began writing songs a year or so later. *Heirs and Graces*' poignantly rueful *I Can't Be Right* was the first he ever completed. Leaving school at 15, he worked on building sites and as an outdoor activities instructor before deciding, on his 20th birthday, to pursue music full-time.

A finalist in the 2009 **Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year** competition, and the following year's UK-wide **BBC Young Folk Award**, Adam was recruited by young traditional firebrands **Rura**, with whom he won **Up and Coming Act of the Year** at the 2011 Scots Trad Music Awards, and a nomination for the **Radio 2 Folk Awards Horizon prize 2013**.

In 2013 he formed his own 4 piece band, **Adam Holmes and the Embers**, to tour, and showcase his own songs. They were nominated **Up and Coming Act of the Year** at the **2013 Scots Trad Awards**. His sound draws at least as heavily on Americana as on Scottish influences - though with lyrics and vocals very much shaped by his own accent. Front and centre is Holmes' distinctive, seductively compelling voice, both fervently tender and huskily careworn. Allied with the maturity of his songcraft, it makes *Heirs and Graces* an album which, while standing on the shoulders of giants, is unmistakably Holmes' own, quietly triumphant achievement.

Heirs and Graces has been extremely well received so far, with several "**Pick of the Month**" selections, comparisons to John Martyn and Joni Mitchell, and repeatedly described in reviews as "**classy**," "**assured**," "**captivating**" and "**never off my turntable**". Radio play includes BBC Radio 2, mainland Europe, USA and Canada. It was described by respected music journalist Colin Irwin as "**the sort of album that seeps gracefully into your soul with such conviction you know this 23-year-old singer songwriter from Edinburgh is the real deal**"

For more press information, interviews, hi res photos, CDs, press tickets etc, please call **Morag Neil** on **0771 288 0965** (email scarybiscuits1@hotmail.com)

LISTINGS

18 Apr	Pleasance Theatre, Edinburgh	Benefit for Soundhouse Organisation
23 Apr	Stereo, Glasgow	
1-4 May	Shetland Folk Festival	
5 May	Queens Hall, Edinburgh	Showcase for North American Irish and Celtic Festival Organisations
31 May	Eden Court, Inverness	Northern Roots festival
16-19 July	Hebridean Celtic Festival	
2 Aug	Cambridge Folk Festival	Showcase

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