

Anda Union – 9 piece band from Inner Mongolia UK tour inc Celtic Connections and Edinburgh



The brilliant 9-piece band Anda Union from Inner Mongolia first toured the UK in 2013 and stole the show everywhere. The band members all grew up in families 'with the music', several of whom still live in the traditional Mongolian way, and came together at music college in Hohhot, their capital city. There they were able to integrate traditional forms - like the now-famous throat singing - into creating a sound uniquely and mysteriously Mongolian but with a strong appeal to a western sensibility.

Promoted by Edinburgh's Stoneyport Associates, Jan & Feb 2016 sees them touring the length and breadth of UK, with 22 dates from London to Inverness, with 5 Scottish shows including Glasgow's prestigious Celtic Connections festival, and St Brides Centre, Edinburgh as well as Perth, Inverness and Dumfries.

"Their opening number alone could have supplanted an entire old-fashioned BBC sound effects department..." ★★★★★ Scotsman (Jim Gilchrist)

"extraordinarily rich vocal and string harmonies, masterly flute and percussion and general joie de vivre... easily in the front rank..." ★★★★★ Herald (Rob Adams)

"fine singers and instrumentalists...complex and gently dramatic..." ★★★★★ Guardian

Anda Union's thoroughly addictive combination of Mongolian musical styles is a reflection of their roots. Hailing from differing ethnic nomadic cultures the nine strong band unite tribal and music traditions from all over Inner Mongolia in China. Anda Union bring a wide range of musical instruments and vocal styles together in a fusion that Genghis Khan himself would have been proud of. Keenly aware of the threat to the Grasslands and their age old Mongolian culture, Anda Union are driven by their fight for the survival of this endangered way of life, by keeping the essence of the music alive.

Anda Union combine different traditions and styles of music from all over Inner and Outer Mongolia, developing an innovation previously unheard of. The very existence of a music group like Anda Union is new to Inner Mongolia. They are part of a musical movement that is finding inspiration in old and forgotten songs, drawing on a repertoire of magical music that had all but disappeared during China's recent tumultuous past. As a group they hold on to the essence of Mongolian music whilst creating a form of music that is new, and extremely accessible to western ears.

Singer Nars says: *"Most of the band members have been playing together since childhood. As adults, we studied professional vocals and instruments together. We are like a family. Fifteen years ago, Anda Union was forged and we haven't looked back."*

The group describe themselves as music gatherers, digging deep into Mongol traditions and unearthing forgotten music. They are on a mission to stimulate their culture and re-engage young Mongols, many of who no longer to speak their own language.

Anda means a blood brother or sister. For Mongolians an Anda is more important than a birth brother as you choose a person to become an Anda, a lifelong blood brother. Anda Union is a brotherhood of Andas.

For more press information, interviews, hi res photos, CDs, MP3s, press tickets etc, please call Morag Neil on 0771 288 0965 (email info@scarybiscuits.com)

LISTINGS (Scottish)

Thu 28 Jan	Perth Concert Hall, Perth
Fri 29 Jan	Celtic Connections, Glasgow
Sat 30 Jan	Big Burns Supper, Dumfries
Sun 31 Jan	Eden Court, Inverness
Mon 1 Feb	St Bride's Centre, Edinburgh

For more information inc full tour dates and background info - www.stoneyport.biz/anda-union