



# DUO BARCLAY & STEELE

*traditional folk musicians*

Barclay and Steele are the notable folk duo whose detailed intricate guitar, rich resonating vocal contralto vocal and their intense unique song arrangements, are bringing a fresh sense of excitement and discovery to the performance of songs of work and older story ballads.

This tradition-based duo's focused sound is a beguiling feast of texture, rhythm and changing dynamics. The duo's newly minted, original and dynamic creations use only the classic tools; a guitar and a voice. Each song is uniquely rendered and served up without a sounding of sameness in presentation. Both performers play traditional fiddle and feature both old and original tunes. Of this duo, audiences invariably mention: a pin drop immediacy, the word mesmerizing and point out their surprise at Rebecca's exuberant vocal which resonates right off the floor in surprising far-ranging ways, combined with the complexity of John's perceptively subtle and intensely detailed original guitar work.

Rebecca Barclay, originally from Toronto, Canada and as a Canadian Folk Music Awards best Traditional Singer nominee in 2010, is known as one of North America's gifted performers of folksong. Rebecca is also a fiddle player and inventive music arranger with an interest in the older songs. A former host of the celtic music radio show, Music of the Glen at Ottawa's CKCU, Rebecca has been a member of many bands ranging from folk choirs, traditional ceildh dance bands, to celtic rock bands including her own special blend performing traditional and original material.

John Steele, originally from Northumbria in the North-east of England, has obsessively played guitar since the age of nine, also plays fiddle and mandolin, and has performed in one of the northeast's foremost ceildh bands, Maximum Pastry. John grew up deeply immersed in the traditional music of Northumbria and the borders and brings new playing elements of ornamentation from the Northumbrian fiddle and pipe traditions into his guitar strategies. Greater listening reveals more in his understated but highly intense playing.

**Distinct.** The shared focus of these two individual musical backgrounds, immersed in a wealth of traditional performance and history from both sides of the Atlantic, makes for one of the distinctions of a Barclay and Steele performance. An exhilarating mix of repertoire: English, Scottish, French, Irish, and Canadian traditional ballads inspired by the works of Nic Jones, Richard Thompson, The Corries, and the areas of Newfoundland and French Canada, are joined with a rare original song or tune. With delightful variety, the duo introduces the audience to new sounds and forgotten stories, whilst bringing the familiar into a detailed, lively, engaging terrain, where a deeper listening unfolds fresh qualities.

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