



DAILY

PLANET

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Daily Planet - Back after a three year sabbatical with a revised line-up and a refreshed musical vision and a new album.

At the end of the last century, musical adventurers Daily Planet disbanded and the editorial team went their separate ways to pursue other projects and ambitions:

Banjomeister Leon Hunt completed his three-year music and music technology degree and also spent most of 2002 playing for The Royal Shakespeare Company in both London's Roundhouse and The Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-on-Avon. Tim Robinson also decided to return to his studies and gained even more drumming credentials at The Guild Hall, London. Tim has also been very busy playing with Afro-Celt fusionists Baka Beyond.

Harmonicist Jamie Matthews chose to let his musical career take a back seat for a while and put his efforts into co-managing one of the West Country's most popular music venues, while keeping his hand in with various acts based in the Bristol/Bath area. Those who remember the first incarnation of the Planet in the mid-nineties will welcome the return of the band's

original bass player/ guitarist Dominic Harrison from the longest Planetary sabbatical of them all - six years!! - though he's not been resting on his laurels either, appearing with countless other bands, and as a sideman for touring Americans in the UK such as David Grier and Matt Flinner.

Alongside these Planet veterans are the new boys, Andy Christie (piano/keyboards) and Henry Sears (fiddle, mandolin and low whistle). Leon and Tim first met Andy whilst they were all hired as session players for two shows in London (the first a TV show alongside The Spice Girls and Robbie Williams, and the second at Wembley Arena!!!) Anyone familiar with Daily Planet's unique musical compass will appreciate that an accomplished jazz pianist with a strong understanding of country and roots music could be considered 'tailor-made' for the band's purposes and key to what is this latest step in the band's evolution.

The Planeteters have been

long-time fans of multi-stylist fiddle virtuoso Henry Sears' playing, back as far as his early days with the acclaimed Afterhours. When invited to be a part of this new line-up Sears admitted to being a long time fan of Daily Planet and accepted immediately.

So here we are at the beginning of new chapter of what has often been described and one of the most exciting and unique bands around. A chapter our inside sources are predicting could be the most exciting yet.

Daily Planet's third album due for release Feb 2004 (On 'Get Real Records')

"... If you don't know the Planet, you soon will. A Daily Planet gig is like taking a ride on a roller coaster - it starts off easily enough... it's good classy material, but just when you think you've reached the watershed of Planet styles they hit you with a quantum leap and you realise that you're on a kind of musical white knuckle ride..."

FOLK ROOTS

Leon Hunt is deservedly the UK's best-known 5-string banjo player. A former student of America's banjo virtuoso, Bela Fleck, his exploits have been making waves on both sides of the Atlantic. His playing seems to crop up everywhere, ranging from BBC documentaries, commercial album releases and most recently in a seven-month stint with The Royal Shakespeare Company. Leon's trademark has always been a healthy disregard for the banjo's traditional boundaries and with this has achieved a level of respect in the British Isles that previously only a US player could aspire to. www.leonhunt.com



Henry Sears is an amazing fiddler; his career to date has crossed many musical borders. Rooted initially in Irish traditional music, for which he made a name for himself in the 1980s with the highly acclaimed 'Afterhours', he has since been called on to embrace flavours and styles from Eastern Europe to Nashville. With a quick ear and natural flair for improvisation Sears has been in constant demand as a session player for TV and studio recordings, for artists such as Sting and Alison Moyet and most recently with Malachi Cush, from BBC's Fame Academy.



Jamie Matthews is truly one of a kind, able to find notes on the harmonica that many players will insist 'simply don't exist' and possibly one of the only genuine jaws-harp virtuosos around. In 1986 Jamie became The Guinness All-Ireland Busking Champion and has since notched up a formidable list of session credits playing with the likes of Danny Thompson, Alison Moyet, and BJ Cole. It is Jamie's unique musical approach both vocally and instrumentally that is at the core of Daily Planet's identity.



Dominic Harrison sings, plays guitar and upright bass with an authority that few musicians ever achieve. Dominic grew up in a musical family and his first performances were as a 'boy wonder' in the family band, Strange Relations. Dominic moved to Bath in the early '90's to play bass for Southern Exposure, a band led by North Carolinian singer/songwriter, Randy Gambill. Dominic and S.E. banjo player Leon Hunt went on to form the very first incarnation of Daily Planet. More recently, Harrison founded the band Madigan with Harpist Jenny Crook and Henry Sears and has also been spotted on several occasions working as a sideman to various touring American Artists such as David Grier and Matt Flinner.



"... Daily Planet commenced with a one chord dervish, with quasi-psychedelic raga licks pouring forth from the banjo; and thence into a freeflow of virtuoso music forms: a hoedown with prominent wah-wah, savage Irish reels, Djangoesque gypsy jazz... They deliver this startling motley of borrowed and self generated music with total conviction... the apotheosis of eclecticism..."

MANCHESTER CITY LIFE

Tim Robinson is exhausted!!! Drummers just don't get much more in demand than this. His rock-solid time keeping, impeccable tone and taste and an uncanny knowledge of a vast array of musical styles make him the perfect 'Planet' drummer. Since DP went on it's three year sabbatical Tim has been touring worldwide with various bands including Stackridge and Baka Beyond. He has also notched up studio session credits (including an Oscar nominated TV Programme) too numerous to mention as well as returning to his studies and gaining even more drumming credentials at London's Guild Hall. Phew.



Andy Christie first met Leon and Tim as the pianist in a band formed for just two shows, the first was at Wembley Arena and the second was a TV appearance alongside The Spice Girls and Robbie Williams!!! Andy's credentials were clearly perfect for DP with his equal understanding of roots and jazz music (he's played everything from solo 'lounge' shows to performances with the likes of Chet Atkins). Mild mannered Andy is also surprisingly one of the most aggressive Hammond players you'll hear anywhere.



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Leon Hunt uses GHS Strings
 Jamie Matthews uses Lee Oskar Harmonicas
 Henry Sears uses Chieftain Whistles