

THE CARNIVAL BAND

25 YEARS OF MUSICAL MAYHEM! 1984 – 2009

"Irreverence, exuberance and variety.... The Carnival Band should be bottled and made freely available on the NHS."

Nottingham Evening Post
19.7.00

piece of Balkan jazz! That too is part of the character of Carnival, a season which in medieval times gave people licence to 'turn the world upside down'. If you've never heard the Carnival Band before, throw your preconceptions to the winds and prepare to enjoy!

During their twenty-five years together, the Carnival Band have performed to the widest variety of audiences possible. These range from classical music festivals and folk festivals to cathedrals, universities, town squares and village halls. It is this broad appeal which makes the Carnival Band and their music so successful. They have been played on BBC radios 1,2,3,4 and Classic FM - a remarkable achievement, in an age of increasing specialisation. As well as being in demand in the UK they have performed in France, Spain and Belgium.

Their sell out Christmas tours with Maddy Prior are legendary and, under the auspices of the British Council, they have together visited the Sudan and the Middle East.

Celebration, irreverence, festivity, and exuberance.

The spirit of carnival is the same the world over whether in medieval Paris or contemporary Notting Hill. The Carnival Band play *any* music that has these qualities and with the addition that when they embark on say a renaissance bransle they're more than likely to turn it into a



"It appealed just as much to my seven-year-old daughter as it did to the senior academics in the audience..."

Unfortunately there was no room for the audience to dance but at least they could roar their approval at the end."

Nottingham Evening Post 19.7.00

"Their cavalier attitude to medieval and renaissance music, secular carols and dance tunes is **guaranteed to lift even the dullest of spirits**.....The Band seem to have no difficulty in playing any instrument that comes in their direction: fiddle, lute, guitar, drums, double bass, clarinet, bagpipes, shawm, curtal..."

Worcester Evening News 16.12.98

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Alongside their concert performances the Carnival Band have developed an exciting educational programme of workshops, lectures and demonstrations and Boosey and Hawkes have published two of their workshop packs (one on eastern European folk music, one on carols). They have recently toured a Tudor music education project for the Early Music Network.

Sometimes they are referred to as "**Henry VIII's Rock 'n' Roll Band**", not surprising when you consider the shawms, lutes, curtals and tabors that litter the stage. But just when audiences are about to pigeon-hole them as another 'medieval' group they whip out a clarinet, a fiddle, a banjo and even occasionally (purists throw up their hands in horror) an electric guitar!

Most members of the band are classically trained musicians and they play in renowned orchestras and early music groups. But when it comes to The Carnival Band, they play strictly for fun! Their ability to communicate with an audience probably stems from their origins as the theatre band for The Medieval Players, one of Britain's best-loved touring companies in the eighties. They are far from serious, but that doesn't mean they don't play brilliantly. Like all very talented performers who look as though they are enjoying themselves on stage, they always get a rapturous response.

"Maddy Prior is helped in no small way by the superb instrumental and vocal support from the five-piece Carnival Band and the inventiveness of Andrew Watt's and Charles Fullbrooks' arrangements."
CD Review 3.6.95

"Un Coup de maitre....

Le professionalisme de chaque participant, temperé par une sorte de nonchalance ironique est incontestable." *Repertoire des Disques Compacts 1.7.91*

"Without doubt the jolliest disc to land on the *Early Music Today* desk recently is the Carnival Band's *Jump for Joy...* It may not score high on the authentic rating but **it had me singing along and laughing out loud**, and how often can you say that about a record? "
Early Music Today 1.10.95

"A flair of irresistible charm.

Launching straight into the music with an infectious carnival spirit, the band also shows remarkable versatility and impeccable musicianship while still keeping a good time firmly in its sights. Imaginative repertoire cutting through all cultures. **In all, a night to remember.** "
Lichfield Mercury 18.7.86

www.carnivalband.com

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