

Bruce Davies

... was born in November 1955 and brought up in Kirkcaldy. Along with his family, he attended Whytescauseway Baptist Church, where he was baptised and became a member at the age of fourteen.

His Faith and music went hand in hand from those early days. He made his solo debut at the age of seven, singing “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night” and many other musical offerings in the Church followed. In 1969 he was persuaded to join with three friends in the Youth Fellowship to form a group as a non-guitar-playing singer. This was a radical change in direction for the classically inclined singer, but one that he enjoyed and laid the foundation for the most important job of his life. When the two girls left for university, he and the other member couldn't leave this new hobby, so they went looking for a new lead singer. The resulting group, “Compassion” (where he first played the guitar), became well known throughout Fife in Churches and anywhere else they could take their music. They eventually became semi professional, enjoying a residency at popular local restaurant before further education, once again interrupted their musical activities.

At school, music was the thing that interested Bruce most and, following four years at Templehall School, a time he looks back on with great affection where he played a principal role in “The Mikado”, he won the music prize in his fifth and sixth years at Kirkcaldy High School. He also sung the solo bass role in Haydn's oratorio, “Creation”. In tandem with his studies, he was a member of many other groups, developing musically and as a performer.

His television appearances as a session bass player with the Clydesiders and almost 1000 performances as half of, folk duo, Beggars Mantle added to his experience as a performer. Now, as a soloist, he can look back on a full-time career that is into its third decade and shows no signs of stopping. Although known primarily as a folk singer, he uses his formal musical background to good effect, being responsible for all accompanying musician arrangements and orchestrations. His 2015 release, his first of all religious songs, ‘**I Have Found Peace – Songs of Faith & Forgiveness**’ both entertains and inspires and has been very well received. It's been followed by ‘**Blowin' In The Wind – The Other Great American Songbook**’, a homage to the great songs and performers of the 60s. Two weeks before the first Covid lockdown in 2020, his collection of classic Scottish songs, ‘**Sing Me A Song**’ was released. His concerts now usually feature an eclectic mixture of Scots songs, the great standards of the acoustic singer/songwriter and folk repertoire as well as some of his own award-winning compositions. In short, he sings songs that have moved him in some way, and he passionately wants to move audiences in the same way.

He continues to perform over 200 concerts annually all over the UK and has appeared many times on television, including “Songs of Praise” with Isla St Clair. He hosts Edinburgh's ‘Spirit of Scotland Show’ and looks forward to the 2019 season there. He has also toured extensively on twenty-eight occasions in the United States and appeared in Canada, Germany, Nigeria, Jamaica, and Australia, too. His Church concerts are always important to him, but he has had many other highlights in his career, the most prestigious of all being at the United Nations, New York and in Nashville at the legendary songwriters' venue, The Bluebird Café.

“You do a lot of concerts in Churches. Why is that?” someone asked. His answer was *“In the past, I would occasionally be asked to do a concert in a Church, and I noticed that the ambience was conducive to me doing my very best. This encouraged me to look for more of this kind of work, with the knowledge that I could fulfill a need and be engaged in some of the most enjoyable work I do. I believe that without an active social life, the Spiritual life of a Church is severely weakened.”*

I am a Christian (my wife Sandra and I are members of Bennoch Parish Church, Kirkcaldy), but I do not see my concerts as “evangelism”, rather (as they were described by a minister who knows my work well) as “edifying entertainment”. I am confident that people with any Faith or no Faith would feel comfortable at any of my shows and that everyone, whatever their personal beliefs, would be entertained, stimulated and encouraged by the songs and feeling of each performance.”

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