

SQUARE ROOTS PRODUCTIONS

NEW & OLD ROUTES TO FOLK MUSIC

PRESS RELEASE

2/02/16

A major new folk music charity to promote Anglo-American folk music heritage – launch events this spring

Square Roots Productions is a UK-based charity whose objective is to curate events and projects that celebrate the folk music heritage shared by Britain and the United States: the people, the places, the history and the music itself. In so doing, it will help secure a vital musical legacy while at the same time nurturing a new generation of folk musicians.

For centuries music has criss-crossed the Atlantic, changed and enriched by each journey and reaching a creative peak in the 1950s and '60s. We are now approaching a critical juncture. In 2016, folk legends Bob Dylan, Joan Baez and Martin Carthy all turn 75. They play on - but many equally influential contemporaries are now sadly neglected. These unsung folk musicians need urgently to be rediscovered, given a platform, in order that their legacy can be shared with today's audience and preserved for future generations.

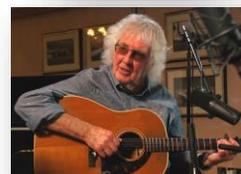
Square Roots makes its public debut this spring with three concerts at *Time Out's* award-winning **Green Note** in Camden Town, London. Each focuses on a legacy musician or theme.

February 22 is a celebration of the late **Jean Ritchie** (right), the Appalachian singer and song-collector who inspired both Baez and Dylan and who traced the links between American ballads and songs from the UK and Ireland. The gig features acclaimed dulcimer player **Dan Evans** and singer-guitarist **Virginia Thorn**, a rising star.



© Jean Ritchie

On **March 23**, there's a celebration of the life and work of guitarist **Wizz Jones**, whose career began in the coffee bars of 1950s London, a man to whom both Clapton and Springsteen pay homage. With **Simeon Jones** and **Dariusz Kanani**.



© Wizz Jones

And **April 13** promises something very special, with Bonnie Dobson, a key figure in the 1960s New York folk revival whose song 'Morning Dew' is now a classic, covered by Fred Neil, the Grateful Dead, Jeff Beck and Robert Plant among others. She is supported by **Harry Phillips**, another new talent to watch.

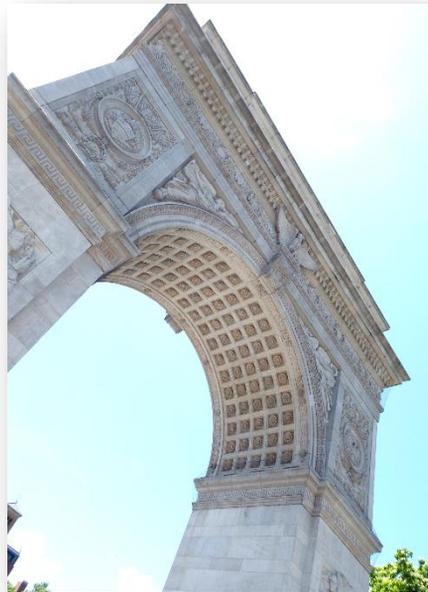


Photo Ruth Tidmarsh

For more information about **Square Roots Productions** please contact:
Liz Thomson: liz@squarerootsproductions.com or **Anthony Keates:** ant@squarerootsproductions.com
www.folktracks.org Follow us on TWITTER @FolkTracks Registered charity 1163954

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Washington Square Park New York,
a crucible of the folk revival
© Liz Thomson

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Looking ahead and contact details

Other events this year include a **conference in the UK on the importance of journalism in launching the 1960s folk revivalists** and, in the US, an exhibition and concert in partnership with **New York State Arts**.

The aim is to engage fully with the folk music community, old and young, across the country and **Square Roots Productions** welcomes suggestions and proposals, particularly for innovative regional activity.

Attached is information about the founders and trustees. For more information about **Square Roots Productions** please contact:

Liz Thomson: 07799 503414 or email
liz@squarerootsproductions.com

Anthony Keates: 07771 911274 or email
ant@squarerootsproductions.com

Links

www.folktracks.org

Green Note: www.greennote.co.uk

Jean Ritchie: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Ritchie

Wizz Jones: www.wizzjones.com

Bonnie Dobson: www.songkick.com/artists/265167-bonnie-dobson

Dan Evans: www.english-dulcimer.com

Virginia Thorn: www.virginiathorn.com

Harry Phillips: www.facebook.com/harryphillipsmusic

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(from left) Bill Samuel, Dave Laing, Liz Thomson, Anthony Keates and Michael Brocken
Photo: Vivienne Wordley © SRP 2015

Trustees Biographies

Liz Thomson, co-founder, is a London-based journalist, author and broadcaster with a life-long fascination with the New York folk revival. She has been privileged to interview Joan Baez, Judy Collins, Janis Ian and Leonard Cohen and her books include *The Dylan Companion* and the 2011 restored edition of *No Direction Home: The Life and Music of Bob Dylan* by her late friend and mentor Robert Shelton, the *New York Times* critic who chronicled the Greenwich Village folk years.

Anthony Keates, co-founder, is a marketing and business consultant working within the arts. He is unnaturally obsessed with British folk music and folklore and with vinyl LPs, of which he is an avid collector.

Dr Michael Brocken is Senior Lecturer in Popular Music Studies at Liverpool Hope University, where he is the director of the world's first master's degree in Beatles studies. His many books include *The British Folk Revival 1944-2002*. Mike is a presenter of *Folkscene* on BBC Radio Merseyside and well known as a singer-guitarist in his own right.

Dave Laing is one of the UK's foremost music writers, a journalist, author and academic with 40 years' experience of the worlds of folk and popular music. His career began at *Let It Rock* and his books include *The Electric Muse*, co-written with Karl Dallas, Robin Denselow and Robert Shelton, which was the first in-depth study of the folk revivals of Britain and America.

Bill Samuel is an accountant and entrepreneur with a love of world music. He brought Ray's Jazz into Foyles, his family's bookshop, and financed and co-produced the recording of *Gentle Men*, a song suite chronicling one family's experience in World War One featuring Robb Johnson, Roy Bailey and Barb Jungr.

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**Performing artists at the Square Roots
Productions launch gigs at the Green Note**



© Dan Evans

February 22
Dan Evans
Virginia Thorn



Photo Laurence Lennard © Virginia Thorn



© Wizz Jones

March 23
Wizz Jones
Simeon Jones
Dariush Kanani



© Dariush Kanani



© Vanessa Champion

April 13
Bonnie Dobson
Harry Phillips



Photo Ruth Tidmarsh