



**Press Release July 2008 - for immediate release
BLACKTHORN BAND RELEASE NEW FOLK ALBUM**

Blackthorn's second album "The River That Runs Below" will be released by Proper Music Distribution on 4th August 2008. Since their successful first album five years ago, Blackthorn have gone from strength to strength with appearances at high profile venues such as the Royal Albert Hall "Ignite" series, Sidmouth Folkweek and a number of other folk festivals.

The River That Runs Below – Blackthorn's distinctive, fresh melodic sound features strong flute and fiddle melodies, backed by guitar and bouzouki rhythms, contrasted with the sounds of whistle, concertina and other acoustic instruments. The album contains new settings of traditional folk songs, such as "Johnny Sands", from which the title is taken:- "He said I think I'll drown myself, in *the river that runs below*, she said "I wish you would, you silly old sod, I've wished it long ago". The tune repertoire has a strong Celtic influence, with arrangements of Shetland and Irish tunes, along with a smattering of self-penned tunes, such as "Evening Star". This new album shows the band in a more mature light, with songs and tunes representing the interests and background of each of the five much travelled band members.

Following the London press launch at the Gibson Guitar Centre in central London on 29th July 2008, There will be a launch gig at Sidmouth Anchor Gardens on Aug 5th .

The Blackthorn story:

Hobgoblin's founders Fergus (Pete) and Mannie McClelland have been active in the trad music scene for over 30 years - since they were young students in 1970, and have been strongly influenced by the early 70s revival music of Nic Jones, Planxty, The Albion Country Band, Tony Rose and many more. They subsequently put all their energies into Hobgoblin Music rather than gigging, and their work took them to many hundreds of folk festivals over the following decades where they absorbed a vast and wide range of influences. They have now gathered around them a small group of highly talented young musicians and together as Blackthorn are now able to realise their long awaited music ambitions. In 2008 Philippe Barnes, a past young folk award finalist completed his MA in traditional music at Limerick, while Alex Percy and Sarah Mooney have been making a name for themselves with their prize winning band Rocas.

www.properdistribution.com

www.hobgoblinrecords.com

www.blackthornband.org

www.myspace.com/blackthornband

Far From Home CD - Blackthorn's 2003 debut album, received critical acclaim in the folk press and was album of the week on BBC Radio Scotland's "Reel Blend" and album of the month in Irish Dancing magazine.

"Extremely accomplished." Folk London

"Musicianship of such a standard deserves recognition and success" The Folk Mag

"A commendable musical collective" fROOTS

"superbly rich and colourful" Irish Dancing

"Fresh like spring water" Keltika (Italy)

Biography

Fergus (Pete) McClelland - Vocals, Bouzouki, Mandolin, Fiddle, Banjo. Fergus has been playing traditional music together with his wife Mannie for over 30 years. He is involved in the organisation of three folk festivals. *"Ciaran Curran's (bouzouki) style and Pete McClelland's differ greatly - and yet both players are absolutely spot-on."* - Aidan Cossey, paythereckoning.com

Mannie McClelland - Anglo Concertina, Bodhran, Dance Caller. During the week she now works as an educational psychologist, and also leads her "Music with Mannie" children's music workshops at folk festivals. She is also a member of ThingumaJig.

Alex Percy - Fiddle, Guitar, Bass, Melodeon. Alex is a founder member of young folk rock outfit Rocas and has performed with them at Sidmouth, Trowbridge, Larmer Tree and other major festivals.

Sarah Mooney - Flute, Low Whistle, Guitar, Bass. Sarah's traditional styles of flute and guitar playing have developed through leading regular sessions in Buffalo, USA and Brighton. She is also a member of Rocas, and the daughter of Mannie and Fergus.

Philippe Barnes - Flute, Tin Whistle, Guitar. Philippe has been seen on TV on the Des and Mel show on ITV1, was a finalist in the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Awards 1999 and has appeared at the Barbican and WOMAD with Candela, a nine piece flamenco group. Recently qualified with a MA in trad music from Limerick university, he has already made waves in the music world with his unique flute work. *"I've heard nobody else who can make the Boehm flute sound like the true traditional thing, who can mould tone to fit the tune so nicely... the sheer musicality is exceptionally impressive..."* - John Brophy, *Irish Music*.

If you would like further information, additional review copies or press photos, please contact Nicola Rain at Hobgoblin Records on 01903 203399 or nicola@hobgoblin.co.uk