

# Mp3 Tricks Upon Travellers - Where The Skeletons Dance

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Heads down, no nonsense fiddle driven politico folk rock, you wanna dance? 12 MP3 Songs ROCK: Roots Rock, FOLK: Power-folk Details: Dick Langford Tricks Upon Travellers I guess that most of us musicians have some kind of ego problem. Sometimes it feels like Ive been banging my head against a brick wall for too many years and yet still continue to do serious damage to my cranium. So whats it all about ? The band is/was Tricks Upon Travellers. We achieved more than a modicum of success in the folk roots world with appearances at Glastonbury and a number of festival gigs. The gigs were storming with mucho dancing and general frivolity which is interesting as most of the songs are lyrically very downbeat. Just goes to prove that at live gigs few people listen to the lyrics. I get distinctly miffed and Im slightly suspicious of bands who seem unable to describe their music. What faith can you have in a band who cant describe their own music ? OK you ask, what sort of music do you play ? Well, its difficult to describe really. Actually its not. Its folk roots or folk rock. For the uninitiated it means we can do pretty much what we want as long as we give the fiddler a few traditional sounding tunes and I manage to produce some authentic English folk melodies. Its great working in this genre. I can assuage my guilt about not being as politically active as I should be by writing about inequality, globalisation and the manipulations of the media. Death and love come pretty high on the agenda as well which probably surprises no-one. It gives me freedom to write whatever I feel strongly about. If something moves me I dont have to fit it into some cliched style, I write as I feel and then we play as we feel. Im lucky in that I worked with and learnt from our old singer Graeme Hobbs, who is an excellent writer. He has the ability to get straight to the heart of the matter. Whereas I tend to intellectualise the writing process and can agonise for hours over one line (and still get it wrong) Graemes lyrics just poured out of his head like some stream of consciousness beanfeast. The songs were always the strength of TUT. Take for example "Where The Skeletons Dance" our 3rd CD. A wonderful mixture of styles and songs (no shocks there then). From the heads down, no prisoners taken, punk folk of Knocker Boys (later to be interpreted as a gypsy swing number?!) to soft dark country of Deserve and the epic eco-anthem "Our Children Will Thank Us" there are no two songs that sound even remotely the same. Maybe thats a problem, maybe we never

had an instantly recognisable TUT sound. This CD really put TUT on the folk rock map with great reviews, the Glastonbury gig and independent radio stations all over the world picking up on it. Unfortunately all the promises of a succession of agents, promoters and would be managers remained just promises (story of our life). Ah, the joys of the music business. I have cynic running through me like the lettering on a stick of rock but Im still surprised at how talent is kicking around in little bars and clubs up and down the country. For our own part weve been rejected by folk venues for being too rocky and rock venues for being too folky. A rock and hard place certainly come to mind. Cest nous ! Its strange really, I drive all over the south of England spending hours in cars and vans, unloading and loading heavy awkward gear and getting home again at 4 in the morning. Why ? Its for that 2 hours on stage, 2 hours of ego massage, 2 hours of feeling truly alive, 2 hours of feeling just wonderful. Its all a lie really its sometimes 2 hours of I cant hear the guitar guys, 2 hours of all I can hear is the guitar guys, 2 hours of who set this sodding PA up anyway?. But the more I play these days the more I get a sense of incredible privilege to be able to do what I do. The band has reached a temporary hiatus with the arrival of 2 sets of twins to drummer and bass player (!!!!) but I continue to write new songs and look forward to performing them when the time is right. Stay cool guys.

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