

Mp3 The Jolly Bankers - Death & Taxes

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A subversive stringband from Boston that plays fiddles, banjo, guitars, feet, coins and coffins. 6 MP3 Songs FOLK: Traditional Folk, FOLK: Political Details: The Jolly Bankers are a punchy string band consisting of guitarist Kristin Andreassen, fiddler Laura Cortese, and banjo player Pierce Woodward. Their first CD, *Death Taxes*, is a mix of original and traditional material, including a rendition of Woody Guthrie's ironic "The Jolly Banker", from which the band takes its name. Other tracks showcase the group's ability to create music that is both beautiful and topical. On "Ways of the Gangsters", they combine the Appalachian fiddle tune "Ways of the World" with a 1941 Langston Hughes poem "Gangsters", which mentions "Iraq oil" as a prize in the game of white collar crime and economic imperialism. Band Timeline: July, 1999 -- Laura Kristin meet in the basement of the Ethier's home in Mission, British Columbia. The two of them were dancing with Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble at a festival that weekend. Kristin asks Laura whether to cut two feet off the bottom of her glitter dress, and Laura asks Kristin about boys. Kristin scratches out the only jig she knows on the fiddle and Laura plays some kick-ass reel. The general pattern of their relationship was established. August, 2002 -- Kristin meets Pierce at the Cutting Edge of the Campfire Festival at Club Passim in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Pierce plays his song "Farm Pond" with Mike Merenda backing him up playing brushes on a fiddle case (Kristin thinks she remembers this). Pierce tells Kristin that he's trying to decide whether to continue a career in journalism or continue playing music. The determining factor will be potential positive impact on the world in general. September, 2002 -- Laura meets Pierce at dawn when the Mammals van pulls up to Kristin's farmhouse in Maryland. (Pierce had decided to pursue music...). Laura and Hanneke Cassel (of Halali) had stayed up playing fiddle tunes by the piano for hours after Kristin went to bed. They wrote the tune "Jeezler" just before the van pulled up. The mist settled low over the corn field. March, 2003 -- Kristin takes a job with Mad River Theater Works in West Liberty, Ohio. She performs a play about Ohio history all over the state for school children. In this play she plays an 19th-century tomboy who falls out of a walnut tree, is knocked unconscious and sings a beautiful song called "Dancing in My Sleep" while doing a dream-sequence waltz-clog. Not really knowing anyone in Ohio (except for the awesome songwriter

Bob Lucas), and living alone in the undertaker's apartment at a funeral home on the road between West Liberty Bellefontaine, she was feeling a little isolated. Laura Pierce traveled together to West Liberty to spend Easter with Kristin, promising to play a bunch of tunes. April, 2003 -- Somehow, Death Taxes was created. We don't really remember how this happened except that it involved walking around the graveyard in circles, minidiscing strange sounds, learning how to use the "loop" function in Digital Performer, playing our instruments, one return trip to Ohio, a trip to Exeter, New Hampshire, and a number of exciting recipes for cabbage. May, 2003 -- Death Taxes released. World tour sells hundreds of CDs while street busking on a trip from Boston thru Burlington to Montreal back. Despite the hoards clamoring for more, we return to our "other lives." August, 2004 -- The Jolly Bankers "retreat" to the Galax Fiddlers Convention in Galax, Virginia and barnstorm tunes for a Banker comeback. They spearhead a musical collective called the Red Tent Band which played for at least three people and a live radio audience on the Galax stage at 10am Thursday morning. Other members of the Red Tent Band included Ben from Old School Freight Train, Joe Mary Simpson, the Knicelys of Harrisonburg, and more. Meanwhile, having sold out of their first 600 Banker CDs, a new edition is released -- with a 2004 date on the package. The Bankers continue to get love notes from people who have heard their music on the radio in places where we can't imagine how anyone could have heard of them. February, 2005 -- The Bankers "retreat" again to Brooklyn, New York where they made a rare public appearance at Pete's Candy Store and recorded a second album in two days at Kristin's apartment. April, 2006 The Bankers release Tax Return on Tax Day, 2006. Track Listing: 1. Ducks on the Millpond (Traditional) 2. Raynas Dream (by Kristin Andreassen) 3. The Uncloudy Day (Traditional) 4. The Jolly Banker (Woody Guthrie) 5. Ways of the Gangsters (Traditional/Langston Hughes) 6. Left Up Cripple Creek (Pierce Woodward/Traditional)

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