

# Rachel Unthank & The Winterset

*The BAIRNS* Album Tour

**Rachel Unthank** voice, cello & feet **Becky Unthank** voice and feet  
**Belinda O’Hooley** piano and voice **Niopha Keegan** fiddle and voice

*"Just beautiful, beautiful music. One day all music will sound like this"* **Phil Jupitus**

*"I just love it..I simply can't recommend them enough"* **Bob Harris, BBC Radio 2**

*"Simply gripping..their ambition knows no bounds"* **fRoots**

*"simultaneously graceful and unflinching..spellbinding"* **Metro News**

*"joyous..refreshingly forthright and in-yer-face"* **Mojo Magazine**

*"austere and glacial.. one of my favourite albums of the year"* **Stuart Maconie**

Dancing down the leftfield and singing in their own lilting Geordie accents, Rachel Unthank & The Winterset make friends of staunch tradition and sonic adventure. The all-girl Northumbrian quartet have courted the mainstream without diluting their folk music, luring fans as disparate as Phil Jupitus, Nic Jones, Joan As Policewoman, Kate Rusby, Alasdair Roberts and Stuart Maconie. Fearless, peerless and wholeheartedly brave, they do the North-East proud with the honesty and imagination they bring to its traditions. Also don't rule out charming interpretations of songs by the likes of Antony & The Johnsons, Robert Wyatt and Bonnie Prince Billy.

A major factor in their success has been their relationship with charismatic and virtuosic pianist Belinda O'Hooley, whose eerily detached accompaniments are at once abstract and unobtrusive. She leaves Rachel and Becky's singing sounding somehow unaccompanied and traditional, while creating a reflective, musical alter-discourse to their songs. Rachel's younger sister Becky has grown so much as a singer that she now commands equal lead-vocal time. The line-up is completed by new member Niopha Keegan on fiddle, who comes from a family of innovative second generation musicians and singers brought up in the cultural melting pot of the London Irish scene, including her brother, the renowned flautist Niall Keegan.

Austere and glacial on record, Rachel & co. are conversely known for their warmth and humour on stage. The tour promotes audacious new album *The Bairns*; follow-up to debut album *Cruel Sister*; Mojo Magazine Folk Album of the Year 2005; released on EMI and launched this summer at Cambridge Folk Festival.

[www.rachelunthank.com](http://www.rachelunthank.com)

[www.myspace.com/rachelunthank](http://www.myspace.com/rachelunthank)

Contact:

Management:

Adrian McNally, RabbleRouser Music

[adrian@rabblrousermusic.com](mailto:adrian@rabblrousermusic.com) 01434 633311 07714 105091

Booking:

Chris Colbourn, Concerted Efforts, Inc

617.969.0810 – fax 617.969.6761

[www.concertedefforts.com](http://www.concertedefforts.com)