

BELLA HARDY

In The Shadow of Mountains



"Bella Hardy is more than a new generation folk revivalist... her potential is massive"

fRoots

"...astounding and captivating... her incredible range and tenderness, her sheer joy of singing, just keep getting better"

Spiralearth.com

Artist:	Bella Hardy
Title:	In The Shadow of Mountains
Label:	Noe Records
Released:	31st August 2009

Bella Hardy, critically acclaimed for her mesmerising singing and fiddle performances, will release her eagerly awaited second solo album **In The Shadow of Mountains** on 31st August 2009.

Though only 25 years old, Bella has already been nominated three times in the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards and has been well known on the folk circuit for many years, playing fiddle in a variety of popular line-ups as a teenager and reaching the finals of the BBC Young Folk Awards in 2004. However, it was following the launch of her debut album **Night Visiting** in 2007 that she quickly rose to become one of the shining lights of the folk scene, famed for entwining her hypnotic voice with her own fiddle accompaniment to stunning effect. **Night Visiting** secured Bella a raft of rave reviews, and 2008 saw a packed year of gigs and festival appearances.

In July 2008, Bella was invited to perform in two concerts at London's Royal Albert Hall as part of the first ever Folk Prom. She was given the privileged but daunting task of opening the event with a set of unaccompanied traditional songs and met the challenge with remarkable composure, winning over a host of new admirers. The programme was broadcast simultaneously by BBC4 and Radio 3. She also appeared on BBC2 on Christmas Day, singing the Coventry Carol in Howard Goodall's 'The Truth about Carols.

In The Shadow of Mountains immediately connects the listener to the very heart of Bella's music. Self-released, self-produced and quietly uncompromising, this is a striking collection of traditional songs, equally balanced with a mix of compelling originals. The inspiration of her roots in the Dark Peak village of Edale is starkly evident, with music named after local landmarks **Broadlee Bank** and Crowden. The traditional song **All in the Morning** sourced from the neighbouring village of Castleton features guest vocals from the Hardy family. The prevailing themes throughout the album focus not only on rural country life (most notable in Foot and Mouth tale **Smoke & Ashes** and traditional song **Rosebud in June**) but also on the mountains faced in everyday life, be they people, places, or situations.

As well as a rich and true voice, Bella's song-writing is also garnering acclaim. **Three Black Feathers**, written by Bella as a teenager and first recorded on *Night Visiting* was nominated for **Best Original Song** in the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards 2008, and has since appeared on Jim Moray's award nominated album *Low Culture*).

On her latest album, Bella presents a selection of new works, including **Sylvie Sovay**, a modern look at the story of traditional song 'Sovay Sovay'. She is joined once again by a number of talented friends and colleagues including Anna Massie, Corrina Hewat and Chris Sherburn.

In The Shadow of the Mountains is a remarkably assured album from an impressive young woman who presents folk songs in the best tradition, not as antiquated museum pieces but as relevant and very human artworks.

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