



“Listening to Invocal is a bit like  
living in a Tim Burton movie.”  
Mad Dog Merea

# Invocal

“Invocal are brilliantly intelligent,  
funny and talented women.”  
Genevieve Tudor - The Sunday Folk Show

## *Left-field acoustic music from Northampton's wayward ladies*

Invocal are an all female acoustic act that perform with cello, guitar and four harmonious voices. Their unique sound has been described as having "dark gypsy folk tugging from one side and an all out west end musical tugging from another". The songs tell tales of modern life with caustic and bawdy humour, powerful and moving lyrics and (most days) expert musical prowess.

It is Invocal's combination of dark comedy, eccentric melancholy and musical theatrics that make them an unforgettable live act.

The band have toured the UK, France, Germany and republic of Ireland. They enjoy playing events such as Cambridge Folk Festival, Shambala, Brighton Pride, London Pride, Priddy Folk Festival and array of cool small folk festivals, theatres, dodgy bars and playhouses.

As an acoustic act they can adapt to almost any stage. The girls especially like to ditch the microphones and go entirely unplugged when the opportunity arises.

*“ This cute band from Northampton are caustic, funny, engaging and so damn harmonic they're hard to put down ”*

*Curve Magazine*



## *Vocal Harmony Workshop*

The band offer an hour long vocal harmony workshop based on the songs of Invocal, run by composer and band leader Rosie Swayne. This workshop gives the opportunity for singing fans to learn some of the bands music, and participate in 2, 3 and 4 part harmony.

## What others say about Invocal:

*“ I certainly wasn't expecting to laugh as much as I did throughout their songs. Very much in the style of Smack the Pony the girls tell stories of lost loves and (in their own words) about being a slag. My highlight was 'Cheer Up Frowny Face', a bloody marvellous and blackly funny song about depression and self harm. But Invocal shouldn't be dismissed as mere frippery. These are definitely one to see live. ”*

*“ I've been playing this music all week - it's addictive - funny, but so dark! ”*

Monica Winfield - BBC Radio Leicester

*“ What wonderful, inventive and unique music! ”*

Sue Marchant - BBC Eastern Counties

*“ The all female quartet boast tight, original and highly accomplished musicianship... and even when they sing angsty love songs they're lucid and quirky ”*

Diva Magazine



## *Rosie Swayne - Vocals / Guitar*

Rosie also writes the songs. She started learning classical guitar at the age of 9, when her ambitions in life were to either become like Brian May, or to marry her cat. By 9 and a half her added maturity helped her realise that one of these ambitions was stupid.

Ten years later Tiggy died of furballs leaving Rosie a widower at the age of 19. She poured her emotional energy into songwriting, and pressured her new college mate Rachel Duncan to help sing her heartfelt songs of woe. So began a great friendship and the tiny seeds of an uncommonly good band.



## *Helen Turton - Vocals / Cello*

Helen Turton has multiple lives. In one of them she plays the 'cello in Invocal. Aside from awesome cello power, her talents include driving the Invocal 'almost a bus' car. Helen is also the band's official photographer. Helen loves playing the cello but is still waiting for the 'Yo Yo Ma' button. She will continue to ask every sound technician until her dream is fulfilled.

We don't talk about her vocals.

## *Rachel Duncan - Vocals / Percussion*

Rachel started her career as a foetus and soared from these heady heights to singing in various pre-Invocal stylings as dictated by the mood swings of Miss Rosie. Classically trained, Rachel has sung in a wide range of contexts and genres from opera at Holland Park, progressive dance melodies in a night club with a sticky floor, company jingles with dubious lyrics to infrequent bouts of karaoke at local pubs.

She now attempts to play the mandolin with varying levels of success.



## *Bee Church - Vocals*

Aside from being a fantastic singer, Bee is also very good at drinking, being a model (of the nude variety), spending more money than she has, writing songs, playing guitar, wishing she lived in medieval times and not being able to remember anything about her education in social science.

She is the newest member of the band, and therefore the most popular with the other members by default.



## *Some places you might have seen Invocal*

Cambridge Folk Festival - Edinburgh Fringe Festival - *Hay On Wye Festival* - London Pride - The Dergate Theatre, Northampton - Mother Redcaps, Dublin - *Priddy Folk Festival* - Oxford University - *Poitiers Festival, France* - Golowan Festival - *Brighton Fringe Festival* - MANO Festival, Germany - *The Camden People's Theatre, London* - Cambridge Folk Club - *Spratton Folk Festival* - Pink Festival - *The Musician, Leicester* - The Castle Theatre, Wellingborough - *Dartmouth Music Festival* - Festival at The Edge - *The Chatterry, Swansea* - The Roadmender, Northampton - *Wirksworth Arts Festival* - The Acorn Theatre, Penzance - *Women In Tune Festival* - The Burleigh Academy, Newport - *The Y Theatre, Leicester* - Glasson Folk Festival - *The Arts Cafe, London* - The Pier Pavilion Theatre, South Shields - *The Hayward Theatre, Ely*



## *Technical Information*

*These are our essential PA requirements*



- 4** vocal mics with stands
- 2** instrument mics with stands for cello, oboe/recorder and percussion
- 2** DI boxes for acoustic guitar and occasional mandolin/bass

Invocal can supply additional mics / stands / small vocal PA but this must be arranged beforehand and may alter expenses.



## Invocal albums



### I've tried saying no to the slugs (2009)

The brand new album features crowd favourites such as “Cheer Up Frowny Face” and “Graffiti” and takes Invocal to a whole new level. Released in 2009, the record has received excellent reviews and has been described as ‘jaw-droppingly powerful’.

Tracklist: **Lonely Ownio** - Peace and love - **Where the gotten go** - Graffiti - **Sweep & Sooty** - Magic tricks - **La la la I'm not listening** - Cheer up, frowny face - **Guide to survival** - Ow - You're spoiling us - **I've fallen in to a hole**



### Uneven Keel (2006)

The highly acclaimed debut album from 2006 received rave reviews from the likes of the BBC and introduced the world to classics “Dear Friend” and “Tinnitus and Me”. Described as ‘an eclectic, eccentric, acoustic masterpiece’, **Uneven Keel is an utterly unique blend of dark folk, cabaret and a big helping of ‘other’.**

Track list: **As Life Dissolves** - Small Anxious Waltz - **Tinnitus and Me** - Dear friend - Girl - **Floating** - The worst thing I've done this year - **Hornswoggled** - Madalini's Aversion to Smalltalk Had Become Really Rather Extreme - **Photograph** - Wondergirls - Ha Ha **Ha Ha**



## *Contact details:*

For more information or bookings, use a pen to message:

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