

INTRODUCTION

Paul Donnelly emerged on the UK music scene in 1977 as a highly talented, innovative young musician. His window of opportunity opened when, still at school he auditioned for Chis Rea over the phone and over a decade of work as an in-demand session guitarist followed.

As he toured, performed and recorded with a diverse range of artists, Paul's musical knowledge and craftsmanship developed and propelled him on a journey in search of his own musical expression.

Paul's music reflects the various periods of his musical development and is layered with both his personal life experiences and his many cultural and musical influences. His style takes in Django Reinhardt, Jimi Hendrix, Paco de Lucia and George Benson. Though never seeking to imitate or recreate the music of others, these influences have helped shape his own unique and refreshingly honest voice both as musician and composer, earning him the reputation as one of the North East's most respected guitarists.

Dance for the King represents the fulfilment of a long held ambition - to share with audiences an evening of his own original compositions which reflect Paul's wide ranging musical outlook and to present his music through a combination of excellent musicianship, exciting dance interpretations and a warm rapport with his audience.

Dance for the King brings together an impressively strong quartet of passionate players with impressive credits and individual virtuosity. This great North East line up features

Paul Smith	drums & percussion
Neil Harland	double Bass
Mick Wright	rhythm guitar
Paul Donnelly	guitar/ composition
Amanda Gregory	Dancer/choreographer

Between them, this collective have played with world-class musicians including Sting, Joe Cocker, Art Farmer, Michael Brecker, Tony Christie and Matt Monroe to name just a few. They have written and recorded for film, TV, radio and albums and their live performances have taken them across the continents. Appearances have ranged from major UK festivals to the West End Stage and their TV credits are just as varied, ranging from Later with Jools Holland to Spike Milligan and The Two Ronnies. Adding her own interpretations of Paul's music, is dancer and choreographer Amanda Gregory, herself an exceptional talent whose dancing career has sprung boarded from a wealth of early accolades.

To coincide with the release of their newly released album, Lament, Dance For The King is taking bookings for Autumn 2011 onwards and is suitable for small to mid scale venues and rural touring networks.

DANCE FOR THE KING

Dance for The King has been described as a 'Travelogue of a concert' and though largely Latin influenced, audiences are taken to musical territories from country and blues to flamenco and jazz, as suggested by many of the tune titles - 'Hot and Happy', Spanish Fire' 'Country Gentleman' and 'Minor Blues' - taken from their debut album "Dance for the King". A second album, "Lament", was released in 2010.

From the beauty of the understated to the passion of Flamenco and from introspective laments to infectious rhythms right out of the Hot Club, the music offers excitement and intimacy in equal measure. From the start, guitarist and composer, Paul Donnelly establishes a warm rapport with his audience, introducing each number and sharing humorous anecdotes and stories of life on the road and the often-unusual inspirations for his music.

The band is tight and intertwined and refreshingly unpretentious. They balance discipline with adventure and share a great collective empathy, never getting in each other's way with their wonderful interplay. The music allows for some rhythmic flights and beautifully phrased solos from each of the players. One of the high points in the repertoire is a hand slapping, finger flying solo on electric guitar showcasing Paul's formidable speed and precision.

Dance for the King also features a guest performance by dancer/ choreographer, Amanda Gregory. Changing costumes and choreography, she flavours and interprets a selection of the evenings music as she 'dances for the king' - her fiery Flamenco dance being a firm favourite with audiences.

The title piece 'Dance for the King' concludes a show, which, above all, presents superb instrumental music, and dance, which expresses something highly personal and hugely enjoyable.

"A perfect evocation of hot days and sultry nights by the Mediterranean" by this "master of the nylon strung guitar". Kieth Ames (Musician Magazine)

"The concert offered a feel-good factor that was very welcome in these downbeat times".
Pru Farrier (Darlington & Stockton Times)

MUSICIAN/ PERFORMER PROFILES

Paul Donnelly - guitars

Paul began his career as a guitarist at the age of 15 when he auditioned for Chris Rea over the telephone. He studied at the Leeds College of Music and became a member of the National Youth Jazz Orchestra where he was given the opportunity of playing with such jazz greats as Thad Jones and Clark Terry, respectively. Moving to London, Paul went on to work as a session guitarist, playing for a variety of films, television, radio, pop albums and West End shows. He has recorded and toured with such diverse artists as Chic, The Nolan Sisters, The Mavelettes, The Platters, Alan Price and Eric Burden of the Animals, Gene Chandler (Duke of Earl), Anthony Hopkins in *Pravda* at the National Theatre. Other credits include: *The Two Ronnies* at the London Palladium, Jimmy Tarbuck, Pans People, Barry Blue (producer for Heat Wave), Clodough Rodgers. Gina Lollabridgedga, Stephanie Powers and Alan Titchmarsh's radio show to name but a few Paul can remember. He has also toured extensively in Europe, Russia and the Far East.

Paul is currently familiar to North East audiences through the quartet *Djangology*, playing first class interpretations of the music of the great Django Reinhardt and also original music in the style of Django- as featured on the BBC Radio 2 Desmond Carrington show. He has been a regular player at the annual Classic American Guitar Show in New York and has released his solo album with music from his touring show of the same name. 'Dance for the King' - playing an eclectic instrumental mix of exhilarating, passionate music played on the nylon-strung guitar.

In 2010 Paul released his 2nd Album *Lament*, available now on iTunes: an emotional and eclectic mix of acoustic guitar instrumentals.

Paul Smith – drums & percussion

Paul is a versatile and highly regarded drummer-percussionist. In a career spanning 40 years, he has performed, recorded and toured worldwide as drummer of choice for an impressive list of collaborators and across a wide range of music/performance genres. In Pop & Rock this includes Sting; Jimmy Nail (CD; *'Crocodile Shoes'*); Prefab Sprout (CD *'Andromeda Heights'*); Alan Price; Alan Hull (Lindisfarne); Peter Grant; Martin Stephenson; Carlos Gonea (Three CDs for Warner Spain). Playing Jazz & Blues, Paul has worked with: Harry 'Sweets' Edison; Teddy Edwards; Art Farmer; Jimmy Witherspoon; Isaac Guillory; Louis Stewart and as support act to; Don Grolnick; Randy & Michael Brecker and Billy Cobham. Paul's Cabaret credits include playing for Tony Christie; Joe Longthorne and Matt Monro and on stage and screen with comedy legends including Spike Milligan; Peter Cook; Tommy Cooper; Cannon & Ball and Bob Monkhouse. Other TV credits include *'The Tube'*, including recording backing tracks for Madonna; Eartha Kitt; Eddy Grant. *'Old Grey Whistle Test'* with Martin Stephenson; Toy Dolls. *'Top of the Pops'*. Paul has also written Jingles for clients including HSBS, DFS, Prontaprint; RTHK; as well as idents for various radio stations. In addition to his performance work, Paul is one of the North East's foremost music educators. Paul's teaching work spans primary school to college level as well as master classes for established and aspiring professionals.

Neil Harland – double bass

Newcastle based musician and bassist; Neil Harland has four albums to his name as well as a live DVD with top UK slide guitarist Johnny Dickinson. Neil's versatility allows him to work across musical styles, making him a much sought after session musician recording with artists including Revolver - *Eldorado* (Warner Spain), Joe Cocker - *No Ordinary World* (EMI), Reno - *Reno* (London) and The Lanterns - *Luminate Yer Heid* (Sony). A musician for 15 years, Neil has toured both in the UK and Europe. He has performed at UK festivals including T in the Park and The V Festival and on TV shows including *Later with Jools Holland* and *Top of the Pops*. He also plays double bass and can be heard on recent CDs' by The Chris Stout Quintet, Rachel Unthank and The Winterset, Kathryn Tickell and Indo- Jazz group Free Spirits. Over the last year he has worked in Germany playing electric bass for rock band The Urge, supporting tours for Gary Moore, The Hooters and Saga and appearing on the Rockpalast TV show in Bonn.

Mick Wright – rhythm guitar

Mick is an accomplished musician who is active on the North East music scene and has been playing guitar professionally since the late 1970's. Mick has acquired a sizeable reputation for his broad musical knowledge and impressive versatility, playing with a host of bands across a range of styles from jazz and folk to pop. In the 1990's he spent three years before the mast, working on cruise liners in Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and the Caribbean. As well as his recent work with Paul Donnelly, Mick is a regular player and guitarist of choice with the Claude Werner Quartet. Mick is also a well regarded within the North East for his education work. He teaches at Newcastle University where he is Head of Studies on the Music Degree Course, supporting young musicians in developing their own musical interests.

Amanda Gregory – dancer

Amanda started out as a gymnast in artistic and sports acrobatics. She was a member of the National Squad and a regular competitor at regional and national level achieving a British Championship title before embarking on dance training at Newcastle College and the Northern School of Contemporary Dance in Leeds. She has enjoyed a successful career as a dancer/ choreographer/ tutor working with artists from different disciplines on a range of interesting, collaborative projects and performances throughout the UK, Ireland and Germany. Amanda is now based at Peter lee college where she teaches...and works on choreography for new performance projects.

BOOKINGS

Dance for the King is available for bookings from Autumn 2011 onwards.
The performance is suitable for small to medium scale venues and rural touring.
Dance for the King is adaptable for small venues/village halls.
Dance for the King can be booked as a music only show or with a featured dancer.

EDUCATION & WORKSHOPS

Dance for the King musicians also work as music educators. If you would like performance-attached workshops tailored to your requirements please call Paul Donnelly for more information.

CONTACT

For bookings, press and marketing enquiries, contact Paul Donnelly on
Phone: (44) 07989 295393
Email: paul_donnelly2@hotmail.com
Web: www.pauldonnelly.co.uk
Myspace www.myspace.com/pauldonnellymusic
Post: 23 Hob Hill Close, Saltburn by the Sea, Cleveland, TS12 1NB

FEES

To negotiate
Travel expenses and accommodation is required for bookings outside the northeast

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Get in: 45 mins
Get out: 30 mins
Show duration: 2 x 45min sets. Total time 2hrs including interval
Age suitability: All ages
Number of performers: 4/music only. 5/with dancer

We require: Please see additional Tec Spec for details

Space: Suitable for theatre or cabaret style seating 100+
Lights: If available
PA: (We don't travel with a PA)
Power:

NB: Public liability, CRB, H&S policy can be supplied on Request. All equipment is PAT tested.