BLUE MURDER
NO ONE STANDS ALONE

DIGITAL BOOKLET

TSDL537

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Norma & Mike Waterson, Martin & Eliza Carthy, Barry Coope, Jim Boyes & Lester Simpson

Dave and Heather Brady and Jim Boyes of Swan Arcade were taking in the late afternoon sun on the glamorous front patio of The Magnolia Guest House during Whitby Folk Week in August 1986 when Norma and Lal Waterson arrived at the gate with a request they couldn't refuse. There was, Norma explained, a charity concert near Robin Hood's Bay for the benefit of the local school. Amongst those asked to perform were various Watersons, Swan Arcade and Peter and Anthea Bellamy. Lal and Norma suggested that it might be a good idea to rehearse (!) a couple of songs all together – it might be fun. It was great fun (in fact early Blue Murder rehearsals were some of the best parties that the participants can vaguely remember.) Following this informal get together, the ensemble – probably introduced as The Boggle Hole Chorale - were asked to do a surprise spot at the festival's final ceilidh.

News of this event spread further south and the following year Ian Anderson invited The Watersons and Swan Arcade to appear at Bracknell Festival separately and together. Obviously this entailed further rehearsals (lots more fun) and the need for a more explicable name for the joint entity. After a particularly lengthy rehearsal, Martin came up with Blue Murder. The line up at this stage was: Martin Carthy, Norma, Lal, Rachel and Mike Waterson, Heather Brady, Dave Brady and Jim Boyes.

After a special preview at Wath upon Dearne in South Yorkshire, over the following year and a half, Blue Murder appeared in concert at The Queen Elizabeth Hall on the South Bank and at festivals from the Scottish Borders to Trowbridge in Wiltshire, as well as making a continental foray to the Brossella Festival in Brussels. A very live demo was put together from their Wath concert performance and some tracks direct from sound desks lurk in Festival organisers' archives, but the original band never made any formal recordings.

Blue Murder II, however, only existed as a recording band. By special request of David Suff in 1994, Blue Murder performed *I Bid You Goodnight* for Hokey Pokey's, Joseph Spence album *Out On the Rolling Sea*. By this time, the membership had undergone quite an alteration. Swan Arcade had split up, and Heather Brady was unavailable on the day of recording. So Barry Coope and Lester Simpson of Coope Boyes & Simpson replaced the two Swans and changes in The Watersons saw Eliza Carthy taking over from Rachel Waterson.

No other work was planned – and following Lal Waterson's death – no further performances seemed likely. Then a phone call, out of the blue, from Chris Wade of Beverley Festival brought the remaining band members together briefly for a Yorkshire Evening in 2000. They really enjoyed themselves. So when an invitation to the following year's Sidmouth Festival arrived, they were delighted. Rehearsals and an afternoon concert to a packed Sidmouth Arena proved once again that Blue Murder was about the sheer enjoyment of singing together in harmony – and that more concerts and an album might be even more fun.

recorded at **Woodman Recording Studio**, Halifax
mixed at **Panda Sound**, Robin Hood's Bay
engineered and mixed by **Oliver Knight**
produced by **Tony Engle** and **Blue Murder**
mastered by **Denis Blackham** at **Country Masters**
photography and design by **John Haxby**
Lester Simpson plays accordeon on track 8

track 1 : Jimmy Davis; pub Jimmy Davis Music
tracks 2,5,6,7,9,12 : trad arr J Boyes, E Carthy, M Carthy, B Coope, L Simpson, M Waterson, N Waterson; pub Topic Records Ltd
tracks 3,11 : M Waterson; pub Celtic Music
track 4 : Gilkyson, Dehr, Miller; pub Mount Clare Music
track 8 : M Waterson; pub Concorde Intl Mgmt Consultants
track 10 : trad adapt L Simpson arr J Boyes, E Carthy, M Carthy, B Coope, L Simpson, M Waterson, N Waterson
track 13 : J Boyes; pub Topic Records Ltd

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1	**No One Stands Alone**	4:49
2	**Gown Of Green**	2:50
3	**Rubber Band**	3:00
4	**Blue Mountain**	5:37
5	**Standing On The Promises Of God**	3:29
6	**The Banks Of Sweet Primroses**	3:26
7	**The Land Where You Never Grow Old**	4:25
8	**Three Day Millionaire**	2:13
9	**Adieu Sweet Lovely Nancy**	3:38
10	**Bully In The Alley**	3:26
11	**Mole In A Hole**	4:06
12	**Stars In My Crown**	3:04
13	**The Goodnight Song**	4:24

BARRY COOPE, JIM BOYES, NORMA WATERSON, LESTER SIMPSON, MARTIN CARTHY, MIKE WATERSON and ELIZA CARTHY vocals

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