Martin Carthy
& Dave Swarbrick
Both Ears and the Tail

TSDL572

Martin Carthy & Dave Swarbrick

BOTH EARS AND THE TAIL

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TOPIC

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LIVE AT THE FOLKUS FOLK CLUB 1966

MARTIN CARTHY *guitar, vocals*
DAVE SWARBRICK *fiddle, mandolin*

If Dave and I reminisce with friends about the 1960s, the story which invariably surfaces is "The day the train ran over the cow". For some reason all I could ever remember was that we were going to Nottingham and that it happened on a long straight stretch and nearly lifted the train from the tracks. The driver had seen her and had been blowing his horn for ages but the animal just patiently sat and chewed and stared until, at the last minute, the driver slammed on the brakes, and even then she was unmoved. The bang as we were lifted into the air is with me now, as is the farmer's silence when he showed up, and the pleading note in the driver's voice as he repeated over and over again "She wouldn't move".

And there I am doing a gig in Newark thirty three years later when a bloke called Keith Brake walks up to me and hands me a tape of the gig we did that night. He and his mate had been on sound for the gig, with a brand new system, and had been really delighted when we gave him carte blanche to record anything he wanted. Sound men usually give you a tape afterwards and he was just following standard practice. There had been [he grinned] a bit of a delay. [Not quite true but it's a good story. Anyway, this man certainly knows how to care for a tape collection]. Arnold and Carlton College was the place on the 16th June, 1966, and we [as I heard on the tape] had been en route that day from the Middleborough Industrial Eisteddfod, having sung in the biggest, longest tent that I had ever seen. I remembered it as being so long that the people at the back had to watch the entire proceedings on TVs mounted on the tent poles from half way down, and probably mis-remembered it as "seating at least 5000 people". But, that it happened the night before the cow wouldn't move over was something which was gone from the memory. The forty or so people who got off the train finally at Nottingham had been making nervous jokes about toreadors and getting both ears and the tail for the driver [who remained stunned and very quiet] while laughing in that high, brittle way that you do when you're really rather scared or at a loss. Hence the name of this CD.

Our repertoire at the time was based very much on the half-dozen or so songs we had done on my first album [Topic TSCD340] on which Dave played as a session man, and the tunes which were meat and drink to him at the time. This is apart from two ragtime pieces, *Porcupine Rag* and *Dill Pickles* which we had learned in

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front of a compartment full of very enthusiastic and giggly Indian people on the train to Sheffield for our very first gig.

The thing I notice above all is that my guitar is in standard tuning for all except one song, but the beginnings of later thinking can be heard [it intrigues me to think how quickly Dave helped me change my way of thinking about playing songs] in an early *Newlyn Town*. Dave's way of accompanying a song in completely free time contriving all sorts of flourishes and twirls with which to drive the narrative was beginning to develop with a vengeance. *High Germany* was always a favourite of ours and there's a straightforward drive out of a different cast of mind which swings like mad, while *Sovay* sounds as though it was acted out on The Runaway Train. Extra syllables. That all-purpose country accent which I commandeered at the time eluded reason then, and still does. But, overall, I'm reminded by this of what an exciting time it was altogether and what a good time we had when we were on stage. Some of the music is great, I think.

This is an honest and unadulterated representation of what we did and how we sounded back then – OK, we edited out some of the tuning.

Martin Carthy

Production for Topic Records by **Tony Engle**
Original production and engineering by **Dave Swarbrick**
from and original live recording by **Keith Brake**
Mastering by **Don Walker** at Editpoint
Pictures from the **Deep Sea Archive** – thanks to **David Suff**
Design and tinting by **John Haxby**, art surgery

All titles trad arr Carthy/Swarbrick pub. Topic Records Ltd/Rykomusic except 4 Johnson pub. Warner Chappell; 12 Johnson pub. Feldman

1	The Leitrim Fancy/Drowsy Maggie/ Staten Island/The Corbie and the Craw	*5.03*
2	High Germany	*2.42*
3	Fair Maid on the Shore	*4.25*
4	Porcupine Rag	*2.40*
5	The Bonnie Black Hare	*2.14*
6	Sovay (The Female Highwayman)	*1.51*
7	The Barmaid/Peter Street/The Mason's Apron	*3.29*
8	The Broomfield Hill	*3.25*
9	The Wind that Shakes the Barley	*4.58*
10	The Hen's March/The Four Poster Bed	*2.31*
11	Man of Newlyn Town	*2.16*
12	Dill Pickles Rag	*3.04*
13	The Two magicians	*3.49*
14	The Kid on the Mountain/The Donegal/ The Swallowstail/The Marquis of Tullybardine	*4.46*

Martin Carthy guitar & vocals
Dave Swarbrick fiddle & mandolin
Live recording 1966

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