



The Fireside Family



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Surprisingly, they really are a family! With influences of **Ed Sheeran**, **Of Monsters and Men**, **First Aid Kit** and **Annie Lennox** to name but a few, they have been delighting audiences since 2014 with their Alternative Indie-Folk vibes.

The folk roots run deep through the group, which is apparent in their style of writing and musical content. With four previous generations of professional musicians (that can be traced so far), they really couldn't do anything else.

Their emotive lyrics are supported by Sky's intricate and percussive finger style guitar, Amanda's dynamic djembe and shakers and Lorien's rhythm guitar filling in the gaps. Add some choral harmonies to the mix, that can only be achieved with relatives, and you have The Fireside Family...

Lorien grew up surrounded by musicians - that's what you get when you're born into a family in the entertainment industry. Small wonder then that she's been a singer her whole life, joining in with her family at every major concert they did - albeit from backstage! She co-writes the songs with Amanda and Sky, and adds dynamic harmonies and sensitive

finger-style guitar work to the mix. She took lead writing on "Svenio" and "Anyway" on their album "*The Fireside Family*" released in 2018.

Lead guitarist Sky has been surrounded by music his whole life. Picking up a guitar for the first time at the age of six, he didn't really pursue it until he was twelve. Having been taught banjo picks and finger-style by his grandfather, Sky has gone on to add variations on a theme! He co-writes the songs with Amanda and Lorien, adding his unique flair, beautiful style and quality lead breaks! He took the lead with lyric writing on the song "Why I'm Wrong" on their eponymous album released in 2018.

Amanda studied classical music, and passed her grade 5 singing with honours at fifteen, after three months intense training of a two-year syllabus. She has been a singer from the age of two, starting with her Mum and Dad (**The Embers Folk Duo**) specialising in harmonies. Her first paid gig was when she was nine. She went on to be an integral part of their family group: "**Dragonfly**". She was one of the founder members of "**TEAR**", a folk/rock band that included Lorien and Sky's father Trevor Jones, Michelle Brisa-Gimenez (**Dirty Lions**), Paul "Stav" Skelton, Tim Connell and Jethro Baker (**Buster Shuffle**) and culminated in a four-track EP called "*What's it all For?*" (1998). **TEAR** parted ways in 1999 and Amanda worked on her own solo EP "*Audio Alchemy*" in 2001. After a 12-year break, to raise the kids, she's back as co-songwriter, singer and percussionist.

In February 2017, they teamed up with producer Adam Fuest from Twin Peaks Recording Studio to record their first Live EP. Recorded and mixed in two days, the EP is a casual "open room" acoustic session, which captured the essence of their sound as if they were right in your living room!

Early 2018 saw them back at Twin Peaks, recording their first full production, ten-track album. 150 hours (fuelled by caffeine, lentil crisps and VERY dark jokes) culminated in their self-titled new release. "*The Fireside Family*" album takes you on a journey into your shadow side with songs about mental health (*Confusion*), anxiety (*Why I'm Wrong*) and guilt (*Who Are You?*) interspersed with uplifting harmonic melodies that keep you engaged, this is an emotional amalgamation between the dark and the light in our lives.

Fast forward to the present day and they are delighted to introduce two new additions to the Extended Family: Jim Elliott and Nick Simon.

Drummer Jim Elliott is the rhythmical glue of **The Fireside Family**. Having grown up in the Isle of Wight folk scene, his first pub gig was at the age of fourteen. He was signed to Holistic Records and toured the UK with ambient dub band "**Delta T**". After having some national airplay with "**The Hopper Ward**", he did the festival circuit as a V.J (Videographer Journalist) for world music band "**The Angel Brothers and Satnam Singh**". He has toured Wales extensively with comedy music group "**Popty Ping**". Now, he works as an animator, making

short clay-mation films and is currently playing with "**The Briars**", "**Two-Bit Yodel**" and performing solo as "**Jim Somniac**".

Nick Simon describes himself as, "Primarily, a Bass Player". However, over 40 years he's also been a Drummer/Percussionist, Guitarist, Cuatro (ist?), Keyboardist & Harmony Vocalist in various Prog Rock, Hard Rock, Folk Rock, Folk & R'n'B bands. He has played throughout the UK, Europe & Japan with bands such as "**IQ40**", (with Paul Hutchinson, of Belshazzar's Feast), "**Manitou**", (with Harry Skinner of The Producers Blues Band), "**Ringo Chubb & the Screaming Toilet Fish from Mars**", "**Hodge's Dump**", "**Powderfinger (UK)**", "**I've Just Seen Roger**", English Dance & Concert Band "**Malthouse Passage**", Alternative Motown/Bluegrass Band "**Motor City Ramblers**" & Irish acousto-thrash fiends "**Hagglebag**".

Being ancient, he can't recall every festival he's played at, but has hazy reminiscences of Stonehenge Free Festivals '82 & '83! Folk Festivals include, **Bromyard, Upton, Garway, Wychwood, Oxford, Cheltenham, Chippenham, Pontardowie & Denmark's Tonder Festival**. Add innumerable Beer Fests, (which he really can't remember), Nick has also played at the original **Wembley Stadium, The Albert Hall, Berlin's Deutschlandhalle** & his own personal favourite – the sadly missed **Fish Dance Hall** in Kobe, Japan - but that's a whole other Timeline!

Nick's supported, (amongst others) - **John Otway, Rory McLeod, Roy Bailey, Faustus, The Oyster Band, Wishbone Ash, Michelle Shocked, The Witches of Elswick &.....errrm.....The Troggs?!**

Apart from **The Fireside Family**, Nick currently plays with Singer /Songwriter Robert Whyte in their duo "**Boondogz**". A recent re-discovery of the joys of Drumming has also led to him playing with five-piece covers band "**12 Many**".

REVIEWS:

"Wales' best kept secret... you'll love these guys! Not to be missed!" - Cinema & Co. Swansea 2018

"These guys are fantastic - Great harmonies, lovely understated playing and wonderful songs. If you get a chance to watch them, take it! You won't be disappointed." – Michael Kennedy, Welsh Sound Board 2018

"Awesome, Awesome, AWESOME ... Top of the shop, the mesmerizing and engaging Fireside Family! Great songs... Harmonies resulting in bodyshivering emotions, energising and magical guitar... A theatrical performance both memorable and stunning to watch." - Lazarus Carpenter, Lazzmatazz Festival 2018

"Nice taste of what's to come" - Chris TTS, Totally Radio reviewing "**Swenio**" 2018