

# GARY MILLER & KEITH ARMSTRONG

**Gary Miller** *"As a song poet there are few in the world today to match him" (Green Man Review, USA)*

**Keith Armstrong** *"There are those who tell the truth in all its loveliness. Keith Armstrong is one of them." (Adrian Mitchell)*

## Press Release:

*"The combination of Gary Miller and North Eastern poet Keith Armstrong is a match manufactured for mastery." ('Paint It Red', UK).*

*"A candidate for the official poet of the Labour Party, Keith writes with anger, pathos and control; combine that with Gary's vituperative delivery and depth of feeling and you are tasting a potent brew." ('Folk Buzz', UK).*

Both hailing from the North East of England, singer, songwriter & musician Gary Miller and poet & author Keith Armstrong first met at the launch event for Gary's old band The Whisky Priests' debut album 'Nee Gud Luck' in Durham in November 1989. A lasting connection and friendship was forged and promises were made to collaborate on future projects. This led first to The Whisky Priests acclaimed 1995 album 'Bleeding Sketches', featuring a collection of songs with the entire lyrics written by Keith set to music by Gary:

*"Classic lyrics and class music. Lend an ear singer/songwriters." ('Taplas', UK).*

*"An absolute must for anyone seeking a bit more than meaningless lyrics and musical nihilism." ('The Edge', UK).*

In 2002 Gary and Keith collaborated on 'Mad Martins', a project conceived by Keith about the notorious Martin brothers of 18<sup>th</sup> Century Tynedale, Northumberland; William (the self-styled "philosophical conqueror of all nations"), Jonathan ("the notorious incendiary" of York Minster), and John (internationally renowned painter). 'Mad Martins' premiered at Northumberland Traditional Music Festival, Queens Hall Arts Centre, Hexham, in October 2002 with a 90-minute performance featuring poems and narrative by Keith and songs by Gary.

*"Cleverly conceived and very well appreciated by the audience. A very fine experience indeed... not to be missed." (Henry Swaddle, 'World of John Martin').*

In 2010 Gary and Keith collaborated on a project dedicated to Thomas Spence (1750-1814) the noted pioneer of people's rights, pamphleteer, and radical thinker of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. As a founder-member of The Thomas Spence Trust Keith successfully campaigned for a plaque in Spence's honour. Unveiled at Newcastle Quayside on June 21st 2010, Spence's 260th birthday, a series of celebratory events saw Gary & Keith perform a collection of Spencian songs and poems together.

Also in 2010 Gary and Keith collaborated on a project based on the Dutch town of Groningen, featuring a series of original songs and poems dedicated to Groningen and its environs, performing concerts and workshops at selected schools and venues in the area.

Since 2001 Gary and Keith have toured together on many occasions, presenting concerts, workshops and seminars internationally. They continue to tour as a singer/poet duo and further projects are planned.

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