

Chrissy Byrne

Chrissy is endeavouring to reaffirm her own individuality by working as a solo artist after her friend Liz Rae (who together were Blue Orchid) has retired and also as a member of the four piece band Louisiana. Chrissy performs rhythm guitar and lead/harmony vocals alongside drummer Kenny Guy, bassist and lead/harmony vocalist Peter Guy and lead guitarist and lead/harmony vocalist Mark Smith. The group's song list spans the decades and includes Country ballads through to the rockier side of Country and all members are enthusiastic to say the least!

Chrissy's solo performances cover the 'greatest to the latest', satisfying both the traditional Country music fan and those who prefer the more modern sound. Her live show also incorporates songs accompanied only by her guitar. With her bubbly personality and ability to interact with her audience, she is an artist perfect for any venue, from concert, to dance, or festival. Her first album, *Some Days You Gotta Dance* is an eclectic mix to suit all tastes.

Chrissy was proud to receive a nomination for Female Artist of the Year for 2008 by readers of *Cross Country* magazine and is looking forward to many more years on the circuit. Her musical journey can be traced back to her teenage years when during the power cuts of the 1970s she and her family

entertained themselves and probably the rest of the street by singing, playing piano, guitar and various other instruments. Her father's favourite film was *The Sound Of Music* and they would accompany the reel-to-reel tape of the soundtrack until it was literally worn out! Chrissy became a member of the local gospel folk group, Harmony and went on to lead them, honing her guitar skills and exploring the wonderful world of vocal harmonies, which is something that she still enjoys immensely. They performed in churches, folk clubs and other venues for 20 years including singing for Pope John Paul II during his visit to Liverpool in 1982.

Wanting to broaden her horizons, Chrissy began entertaining on the cabaret circuit in 1992 working alongside stars such as Ken Dodd and Jimmy Cricket. After a chance meeting with Country vocalist Liz Rae in 1998, the two became firm friends and, combining Liz's powerful voice with Chrissy's beautiful harmonies and guitar skills, they formed the duo, *Blue Orchid* in February 2000 and in the following eight years performed nationwide at clubs, theatres and festivals receiving many nominations and awards from various magazines. In October 2001, they were privileged to tour with Country legend Don Williams. They also featured on the *Best Of British Country*



Album in 2003 with *Slow Down For A While* and again in 2004 with *Two Hearts Dancing*. Tracks from *Blue Orchid*'s five cds have received radio airplay from many stations in the UK, throughout Europe, Australia, New Zealand and USA. They have performed many times in Spain and Majorca and even entertained the troops in Germany in August 2008. Although on a professional level, the duo has enjoyed great success, their personal lives have followed a difficult route, both girls struggling with family illnesses and bereavements. This all affected Liz's health and increasingly Chrissy covered many gigs by herself. Due to her continuing health issues, Liz has now decided to retire with

immediate effect, although the girls will remain the best of friends and both have cherished memories to last a lifetime. Throughout their time together, the love and friendship received from fellow artists and the many fans and friends they have met along the way has been inspirational. They would also like to thank all the agents, promoters and bookers for their continued support. Whilst there is an audience, Chrissy will continue to enjoy entertaining them with a laugh and a joke along the way. For further information or booking enquiries Chrissy can be contacted on 0151 523 0152 or 07761 215127 or by email at Chrissy-byrne@blueyonder.co.uk.