

TWO-CD SET MEET ON THE LEDGE
BRINGS TOGETHER THE BEST FROM
INFLUENTIAL FOLK ROCK BAND FAIRPORT CONVENTION

Each year for the past two decades, one of the most popular folk festivals in Europe has been the annual Fairport Convention reunion. Fusing traditional English folk and American folk and rock 'n' roll, Fairport Convention became England's most influential folk rock band of the late '60s-early '70s. The starting point for master guitarist and songwriter Richard Thompson, and the zenith for Sandy Denny, whose ethereal voice marked her as one of the U.K.'s most compelling female vocalists, Fairport Convention was one of the most acclaimed bands of its time. Today, Fairport Convention is as much a part of the folk rock tradition as the music itself.

The two-CD collection **Meet On The Ledge: The Classic Years (1967-1975)**, released July 27, 1999 on A&M/UMG, is a 32-song, two-and-a-half hour anthology featuring material from the classic albums Fairport Convention (1968), What We Did On Our Holiday (1968), Unhalfbricking (1969), Liege And Lief (1969), Full House (1970), Angel Delight (1971), Babbacombe Lee (1971), Nine (1973) and Rising For The Moon (1975).

Along with such classic tracks as "Fotheringay," the lilting "Book Song," "I'll Keep It With Mine," Thompson's masterpiece "Meet On The Ledge," Bob Dylan's "Percy's Song," the beautiful "Who Knows Where The Time Goes," Joni Mitchell's "Chelsea Morning" and the extended "Sloth," the collection includes rarities as well as the legendary unreleased recordings of "Bonny Bunch Of Roses" and "Poor Will And The Jolly Hangman."

All of the selections have been digitally remastered from the original tapes. A full-color 24-page booklet featuring rare photos and an informative history also accompanies the package.

Mixing strong originals, excellent covers of contemporary folk rock songs and imaginative revivals of traditional folk songs that combined electric and acoustic instruments with a beguiling ease, Fairport Convention opened the door for future bands, such as Steeleye Span, by creating a climate that allowed traditional music to be played in a rock context. In fact, bassist Ashley Hutchings went on to join Steeleye Span, and with guitarist Simon Nicol formed

the Albion Country Band. Drummer Dave Pegg has played with Jethro Tull since the late '70s. Guitarist Ian Matthews has also enjoyed a fruitful career. Denny became a much-beloved figure in folk before her death in 1978. And Thompson is surely a folk superstar.

It's no surprise that Dirty Linen, the top American roots music magazine, originally began as a fanzine for the band. Fairport Convention is where folk and rock truly met for the first time--out on the ledge.

7/99

#

Contact: Sujata Murthy, Universal Music 818-777-7812

Sujata.murthy@umusic.com