

RUBUS

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'Bravely sparse arrangements...A bold, imaginative effort' *fRoots*
'a magnificently assured debut' *Rock and Reel*
'an intense, intimate listen' *Net Rhythms*

'From the first moment I heard Emily sing, I knew that she was special. She is beautiful and charming, and with her love of the tradition and her well-chosen songs, she graces the English folk scene.'
Shirley Collins

Rubus is a new band that combines the talents of Emily Portman (voice & concertina), Christi Andropolis (fiddle, viola & voice) and David Newey (guitar). Drummer Will Schrimshaw often joins the trio for festivals, adding to their already energetic sound. With a unique repertoire rooted in the more obscure songs and ballads of the English folk tradition, Rubus also explore new ground with original songs, combining Emily's striking vocals with exceptional finger style guitar, responsive fiddle and distinctive drums. Their debut album *Nine Witch Knots* is quickly gaining them attention, having already received airplay on BBC Radio 2 and Radio 3's *Late Junction* as well topping the *fRoots* magazine October '08 playlist.

Individually, the members of Rubus are seasoned performers, and top the new wave of outstanding young musicians on the British Folk scene. One time member of harmony trio (and BBC folk-award nominees!) *The Devil's Interval*, Emily is one of the brightest young stars on the British folk scene. Her flair for unaccompanied singing has lead her to tour with the renowned Waterson:Carthy and to be featured on the BBC's recent adaptation of 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles'. 2008 has seen Emily's solo career blossom, with her darker edged original songs swiftly creating a stir beyond the folk scene.

A native of NYS, Christi Andropolis' fiddle playing and singing is greatly influenced by the folk music of the Southern States as well as that of the UK. She easily blends the energy and characteristic voice of Appalachian tunes and songs into the English tradition, and her expressive strains of delta blues make for a wholly unique approach to accompanying English folk material.

David Newey has established a fantastic range of ability and diversity on finger style guitar, creating a sound that is both innovative and firmly rooted in tradition. While providing strong rhythm and intricate melodic lines for the group, David also creates sparse accompaniments to Emily's free-style singing. David is sought-after both as an accompanist and composer, performing with renowned fiddler Tom McConville and carving out a promising solo career.

Experienced and engaging performers, Rubus regularly tour festivals, folk clubs and art centres throughout Britain and America, from Glastonbury and Towersy to The South Bank centre and The Sage, Gateshead. The maturity and integrity displayed in their music assures that Rubus will soon become a familiar name on the folk scene and beyond.

For more information and bookings (both as a trio & four-piece) please contact Rubus at: info@rubusband.com, or ring Emily on 07849094408.