

## **KRISTINA OLSEN**

**Kristina Olsen** is one of the most entertaining and compelling performers on the international folk circuit. A fine instrumentalist (acoustic guitar, steel-body slide guitar, saxophone, concertina and piano) as well as a powerful songwriter with a big bluesy voice. Kristina has audiences around the world coming back for more. Her mix of strong songs in the troubadour tradition, some jazz-inspired sounds and powerful bottleneck blues (as well as her hilarious storytelling) makes for a diverse and satisfying musical experience, on stage and on disc.

Born in San Francisco and raised in Haight-Ashbury during the 1960's, Kristina's approach to music and life was formed by that environment of vital cultural expression, social activism and diverse musical influences. She now calls Venice Beach, Los Angeles home but rarely sees it from touring ten months a year. It was on one of these tours that she met **Peter Grayling**, a cellist from Western Australia and a new musical alliance was formed. In March 1998 '**Duet**' a cd of duet's between Olsen and Grayling was released to great acclaim, and in 1999 '**The Truth of a Woman**' their second collaboration was released. In previous years Olsen released four critically acclaimed solo cds on the Philo/Rounder label. **Fairport Convention** recorded her song '**Dangerous**' on 'Who Knows Where the Time Goes'. Kristina has performed at most of the major folk festivals in the UK including **Cropredy, Sidmouth, Towersey, and Brampton Live** in the UK and many in Australia and the USA. She has performed on **Michelle Shocked** album 'Short Sharp Shocked' on Polygram. Kristina won the **Kerrville Songwriting award** for her song for battered women, '**I'm Keeping This Life of Mine**'.

**"Kristina once seen and heard is not easily forgotten. Her skills in writing and performance along with the charm of her musical personality have always ensured this.**

*Simon Nicol, Fairport Convention*

**"A magnificent singer who talks about rude things!!"**

*Les Barker*

**"Kristina changed my life"**

*Jackie Hanham, workshop participant.*

**Kristina Olsen not only reduces grown men to quivering wrecks with her songs she also knits socks between sets ..... That's talent for you".**

*Caz Graham*