

## THE OCCASIONAL ORCHESTRA



First there was indie guitar band HOME & ABROAD, christened by one journalist 'The Tonka Toys of Pop'

Home and Abroad released records through several labels in different countries including UK, Germany and USA but enjoyed their best relationship with the Spanish based Elefant Records with label founder Luis Calvo commenting in a Press Release at the time of their first single with Elefant "(they) pick up excerpts of British pop in their purest states, from The Beatles to the Smiths."

After various enforced line up changes the band eventually changed their name and recorded with Martin Rushent (Stranglers, Human League, and Hazel O'Connor) before releasing the album Bee Keeping for Beginners, before band mainstay Darrell Mitchell began performing with The Simpletons, an acoustic duo formed with George Whitfield of renowned folk rockers and festival favourites Pressgang.

Darrell wrote Stain on Your Heart for Pressgangs best selling 'Fire' album and often played on stage with them; the track still forms part of the bands live set today.

After a self enforced break from performing Darrell returned as a soloist for acoustic gigs during autumn 2007, soon being joined on stage by The Occasional Orchestra, a gathering of various friends and former band members who play all manner of instruments including 12 string guitar, bass guitar, bouzouki, washboard and cajon as well as adding backing vocals.

The Occasional Orchestra released their first album "Japeeza" early summer 2009, in support of various festival appearances, mixing new solo and band tracks including an interpretation of the White Spiritual, Lonesome Valley, which also appeared on the Whispers from the Offing CD tribute to singer and artist Kevin Coyne. Kevin's son Robert has since guested with The Occasional Orchestra on electric lead guitar.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Occasional Orchestra album, Dust & Satellites, 10 new songs arranged by the band, was released in Summer 2010 with a preview 2 track download single released the previous December via i-tunes and the band have also contributed to two film soundtracks.

### Quotes:

"Huge thanks; you were fab on the mainstage Saturday .. what a magical night".  
Dave Newson, Bunkfest 2010

"An awesome set, we so enjoyed The Occasionals, you are fab. The sun came out when you guys and gals were on!"  
Neile, Here Comes the Sun Festival

"Thanks for being so professional and playing so well, see you all soon." Prohibition, London

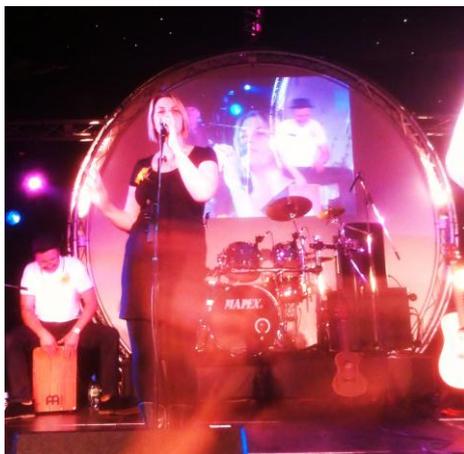
"2 percussionists?! It's like an acoustic Glitter Band!!" TV Smith (ex The Adverts)

"If I'd have missed The Occasional Orchestra I'd have been raging. I love these guys; a really brilliant sound. They were magic. Really, really check these guys out"  
Stoo Nicol, Utterly Folked

"One of the undoubted highlights of a fantastic weekend, an absolutely stonking performance, which filled every one of the relevant boxes with a decisive tick: plenty of variety whilst maintaining a distinctive signature sound; an abundance of visual interest; good humour and a sense that you were all really enjoying being up there; and most of all great, great songs. Really hope to see you again before but if not then we'll see you at Lupus Fest 2011!"  
Stewart Osborne, Lupus Fest 2010

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The Occasional Orchestra – “the band of a thousand smiles” Clive Product (Berlin)

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