



acoustic music singer/songwriter duo  
a gentle blend of instruments  
and vocal harmony

Think **purple**, think **Taylor** acoustic guitars... think **jiva**  
Singer/songwriter duo with a distinctive gentle blend  
***"They diven't blaah yer lugs off"***

Jimmy & Val first sang together in the early 1970s in their local folk club - 'The Jerry' in Prudhoe, Northumberland. Val's work took her to London while Jimmy remained in the North East performing with local acoustic bands.

jiva was formed when Jimmy ('ji') and Val ('va') got together again in 2002 after 30 years when Val moved back to Northumberland. Since then they have built a solid reputation (not only in the North East, but across the UK) as performers of quality self-penned material and interpreters of carefully chosen songs by other artists.

Their repertoire is contemporary with a growing number of self-penned songs. They both play 6 and 12-string Taylor guitars, Kala tenor ukuleles and both sing. Val also plays U-Bass ukulele, glockenspiel (and cowbell!), while Jimmy also dabbles with harmonica.

The combination of both voices and contrasting playing styles makes for a gentle and relaxed sound with a touch of humour and choruses that have inbuilt singability. You certainly won't find them 'bashing out' a stream of chart favourites, but will probably leave a jiva gig humming one of their own compositions. As Dave Kidman said in Folk Roundabout *"a jiva concert can certainly cast a special kind of spell"*.

In addition to topping the bill and also playing commissioned support slots for mainstream professionals at folk clubs, playing at festivals, providing live music for residential care homes, house parties, community organisations, local charities and fund-raising events, jiva have recorded one studio album ('Best Friends') and also appear on compilation folk and acoustic CDs. FATEA Magazine reviewer, Neil, writes *"Best Friends' is wholly enjoyable and a real good listen... quality playing and vocals delivering a well rounded album"*. They are currently working on the follow-up, provisionally titled 'Flip Side'.

They have a state of the art Bose L1 sound system, but are equally happy to play acoustically or with their AER acoustic amp setup for small intimate events.

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#### Footnote

Forty years after having first met, Jimmy & Val finally tied the knot - travelling to America in 2009 to be married at Taylor Guitars in El Cajon, California - a fitting venue, appropriate not only to their style of music but also the guitars that are the cornerstone of the unique gentle blend that is unmistakably... jiva.