



**Sarah Jane Morris and Tony Remy present
Sweet Little Mystery,
a reimagining of John Martyn's songs**

31st July – 11th August at 6.45pm

Assembly Festival, Studio 3 on George Square, Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Tickets: <https://www.assemblyfestival.com/whats-on/sarah-jane-morris-sweet-little-mystery>



Sarah Jane Morris

**short film about the making of *Sweet Little Mystery* [here](#)
images [here](#)**

"..she speaks to the soul" THE TIMES

"..her take on the music of John Martyn...felt incandescent" EVENING STANDARD

Following the release of ***Sweet Little Mystery – The Songs of John Martyn*** album on 10 May, British soul, jazz and R&B singer Sarah Jane Morris and Tony Remy interpret John Martyn's canon of music live in Edinburgh this August during a limited run at Assembly Festival. Directed by legendary comedian and activist Mark Thomas, this touching tribute to

singer and songwriter John Martyn shines a light on a great musical maverick who influenced a generation of his peers, friends and fans alike.

Sarah Jane and Tony are joined on stage by Trinidadian-born Tim Cansfield, their long-term collaborator on acoustic guitar. The show features unreleased footage of John Martyn and interviews with his family and friends, including legendary Scottish singer and songwriter Eddi Reader, a long-term friend of Sarah Jane's and John's younger sister, Julie Purdey.

Sarah Jane Morris said: "I have been a fan of John Martyn's music since I tuned into *The Old Grey Whistle Test*, when I was an impressionable 14-year-old. John was singing *May You Never* and I developed a teenage crush. John's songs became the musical backdrop to my teens, my twenties, thirties and forties, but alas died in my 50th year. Here I am aged 60 paying a musical homage to a musician that stretched the boundaries of music, a songwriting genius. I first covered *May You Never* in 1997 on my *Fallen Angel* album and have been closing my concerts with this song for over 22 years. *I don't wanna know about evil, I only wanna know about love.*"

This year marks 10 years since John Martyn's tragically early death aged 60. On 10th May Sarah Jane Morris, who celebrated her 60th birthday this year, released *Sweet Little Mystery - The Songs of John Martyn*, an album of his songs, as a joint project between Sarah Jane and Tony Remy. Together they pay homage to the sublime genius of John Martyn - a restless, often self-destructive artist whose unique voice and music is both breathtakingly bold and achingly tender in its beauty.

Sarah Jane and Tony completely reimagine John Martyn's songs, retaining their original hypnotic fragility, with her voice matching the emotional and musical range of his and Tony's arrangements and grooves, helping Sarah Jane's voice create new and illuminating versions of the music. These are fresh and invigorating re-interpretations that make you listen anew to familiar tunes.

Sweet Little Mystery - The Songs of John Martyn tours nationwide and in Europe after opening in London's Southbank on 14 May, including a performance at Glasgow International Jazz Festival on 21 June.

/ENDS

Notes to editors:

Sweet Little Mystery - The Songs of John Martyn

Assembly Festival, Studio 3, George Square at 6.45pm

Previews: 31st July - 1st August

Show dates: 2nd August - 11th August

Tickets available now from <https://www.assemblyfestival.com/whats-on/sarah-jane-morris-sweet-little-mystery>

Prices: £10 (previews), £13/£14, 2for1 on 5 and 6 August

First review date: 1 August

Trailer [here](#), images [here](#).

<https://www.sarahjanemorris.co.uk>

Show Credits:

Sarah Jane Morris – vocals
Tony Rémy – acoustic and electric guitar
Tim Cansfield – acoustic guitar
Rod Morris – filmmaker
Directed by Mark Thomas

Playlist:

Fairytale Lullaby
Couldn't Love You More
Head and Heart
Call Me
Over The Hill
Solid Air
One World
Sweet Little Mystery
May You Never
Carmine
I Don't Wanna Know

Biographies

Sarah Jane Morris is a singer with an astonishing vocal range. Her thirty-year career, during which she has garnered a loyal and loving international audience, has been wide-ranging and her rich contralto voice goes from strength to strength. She has performed with many groups over the years, from rock to soul to African blues, with classical orchestras, a one-hundred cello ensemble, with acoustic guitars and jazz big bands. Her voice, her versatility, and her emotional intelligence - the absolute authenticity of feeling which she conveys - make her a world-class compelling performer.

In 1986 she toured the world with The Communards when their song *Don't Leave Me This Way* became a worldwide number one hit. She also performed with bands including The Test Department, The Redskins, The Annie Whitehead band and The Republic. For some years she fronted the celebrated 21-piece Brechtian big band The Happy End.

Perhaps surprisingly for an established English soul and jazz singer she has a very successful career in Italy where she plays frequently. She has a strong and passionate following there and has had several number one hits, including a cover of Barry White's classic *Never Gonna Give You Up*. She has also had three number one hits in Greece.

In November last year Sarah Jane worked with Orphy Robinson on his Van Morrison show *Astral Weeks*, to great acclaim. Revisiting popular songs has always appealed to her, famously in *Don't Leave Me This Way*, and another cult single, Billy Paul's *Me and Mrs Jones*, but also works by Bob Dylan, Sting, John Lennon and Tom Waits. She has said that she will only cover a song if she feels she can take it, change it, claim it and make it her own.

Tony Remy is one of the world's most exciting guitar players of any genre. His hard-edged rhythmically driven approach is enriched with jazz intuition and bluesy soul. Live on stage, his relentless invention and incredible raw energy can set the crowd on fire. The reputation he has gained within the jazz community worldwide is fast making a legend out of this North London musician. He has toured and recorded with a wide range of musicians which include: Courtney Pine, Jason Rebello, Julian Joseph, Freddy Hubbard, Jean Toussaint, Steve Williamson, Lonny Liston Smith, Lenny Whit, Omar, Steps Ahead, Gary Barlow, Simply Red, US3, Cleveland Watkiss, Pee Wee Ellis, Ronny Laws, Nelson Rangell, Connor Reeves, Maysa Leak,

Down to the Bone, Matt Bianco, Karen Ramirez, Noel McKoy, Annie Lennox, Craig David, Icognito, M-People and many more.

Tim Cansfield was born in Trinidad. A self-taught musician, this enigmatic and self-effacing genius is the first choice of many recording artists, including Bee Gees, Steve Winwood, Elton John, Heaven 17, Billy Preston, Chaka Khan, Tina Turner, Whitney Houston, Seal and many more. He is currently working with Swing Out Sister, Barry Gibb, Kevin Roland and various outfits in and around London.

Mark Thomas

- Mark has been performing comedy for 30 years
- He has written 5 books
- Curated and authored 2 art exhibitions
- Won 5 awards for performing, 3 for human rights work and 1 he invented for himself
- He made 6 series of the Mark Thomas Comedy Product for Channel 4
- He made 3 Dispatches for Channel 4
- He was commissioned to write 1 new show for the Royal Opera House
- He has made 5 series of the Manifesto for Radio 4
- He has performed in 4 continents and in 10 countries
- He has performed 4 shows at the National Theatre
- He was a columnist for the New Statesman magazine for 4 years though it might be 5
- The 100 Acts of Minor Dissent campaigned successfully for trade union recognition for cinema workers, got a multinational to change their practices, brought 4 court cases and annoyed lots of people
- How to describe his work? A mix of standup, theatre, journalism and the odd bout of performance art. He is 53 years old and doesn't care if it sounds pretentious
- He was born in South London in 1963

To book press tickets or to arrange interviews please contact Magda Paduch at The Corner Shop PR: magda@thecornershoppr.com / 0758 3164070