



*Welcome to cloudstreet, who present fabulous songs with magnificent harmonies and loads of laughter. Australian duo Nicole Murray and John Thompson breathe new life into the tradition - come and fly with cloudstreet.*

With their warmth, talent and loving stage presence, Australian duo **Cloudstreet** makes their audience feel that they are the privileged viewers of something very special. As **Cloudstreet**, **Nicole Murray** and **John Thompson** tour internationally and have gained a following wherever they go as one of the most exciting acts on the contemporary folk scene.

With their trademark dazzling vocal harmonies, **Cloudstreet** play a combination of the great ballads and songs of the ages as well as their own original songs and tunes written in a trad-acoustic style. Their music is acoustically-based, with roots in the English, Australian and Irish traditions. Their emphasis is on innovative use of vocal harmonies and instrumental arrangements to incorporate contemporary performance values into an ancient musical form. In concert, they deliver a powerful and moving musical experience, whether to dozens or thousands.

**Cloudstreet's** style is traditional, and includes many original songs and tunes, in a lively and entertaining acoustic act which appeals to a wide range of people and ages. Their ancient ballads and traditional songs are made spellbinding by

their daring and sublime vocal harmonies, which create the impression of a 'third voice'. The songs they perform are like chapters from fairytales; some dark and foreboding, some strange and funny and all performed with consummate skill, grace and passion

Their material is drawn mainly from the Irish, English and Australian traditions, sung acapella or with guitars, flutes, whistles, percussion and concertina. Keeping an ancient storytelling tradition alive, they remind us that love, betrayal, deceit, loss and laughter are universal aspects of the human story.

In the past 5 years **Cloudstreet** have played at all of the major festivals and clubs around Australia. They have also toured extensively across the United Kingdom, and in 2005 toured New Zealand for the first time. They are currently on their third tour of the UK.

2006 saw the release of their fourth album, **Dance Up The Sun**, following on from their acclaimed earlier releases **The Fiddleship** (2004), **Violet Sarah and Muckle John** (2002), and **Swallow the Concertina** (2000).

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## Nicole Murray

Nicole is a full time musician and visual artist. Her long musical and performing career has seen her in many different bands and ensembles in Townsville, Melbourne and Brisbane, ranging from the exacting combination of vocal and instrumental music which is **Cloudstreet**, to pantomime and celtic concerts with **Baldrick and the Cunning Plans**, anything from celtic to country with **The Pirate Brides**, acapella harmonies with the award-winning **Gritty Pearls**, and **Drunk on the Moon**; and irish pub rock with **Rockin' Molly** and **Hot Toddy**, amongst many others. A multi-instrumentalist and vocalist, she has concentrated on trad music, harmony work and songwriting. She has run a festival choir in Townsville, taught a group of over-50s to play tin whistle (for which they gave her rave reviews), and participated in a Bulgarian choir for the **Brisbane Festival**. She plays flute, tin whistle and guitar, and is an established composer of both songs and tunes.



## John Thompson

John developed a love of harmony singing and unaccompanied vocals during his time in **Saint. Stephen's Cathedral Choir** in Brisbane, and is a singer of some renown, with a strong and unique vocal style. Winner of the inaugural **Lis Johnston Award for Vocal Excellence** at the **National Folk Festival**, he developed his reputation with tight harmony groups **No Right Turn** and **One Step Forward** in Brisbane.

Much loved at festivals around Australia for his part in comedy duo **Never the Twain**, John also performs as a debater, master of ceremonies,

singer, songwriter, parodist, and all-round nice guy. He was even one of the judges at the inaugural cludge-mollying competition at the Brisbane Medieval Fayre in 2005. He plays guitar, English concertina and whistle. John's remarkable vocal range provides some enthralling listening in **Cloudstreet's** arrangements.

Exciting, polished, and professional these folks have really impressed us (and we are not easily pleased). The cross section of material is perfect, traditional to new written and the voices and harmonies are wonderful and laced with skilful musicianship that works well for big stage or small clubroom.

Book 'em .you won't be disappointed.

*Dave Webber & Anni Fentimnan*

"...together they are superb. Vocally they are well matched and musically their arrangements are magical."

*The Folk Rag.*

"Their individual voices are splendid, their harmonies sublime, their arrangements superb, their material stupendous, their repartee scintillating, the overall effect stunning!!" *Margaret Walters, Almost Acoustic.*

"Cloudstreet's sense of fun, fabulous arrangements and well-matched, gorgeous

voices add up to a great night's entertainment. They include a touch of theatricality - without overdoing it - to turn their carefully-chosen material into a performance which totally absorbs their audience."

*Hamish Currie, Tudor Folk Club*

"The best new act on the English folk scene."

*Derek Droscher, Banbury Canalside Folk Festival*

"The find of the festival." *Fylde International Folk Festival*

"What I like most about Cloudstreet is that they are not afraid to twist convention, to take on different vocal styles and to use a range of interesting tempos and harmonic ideas all the while remaining true to the genre..."

*Helena Reynolds, English Dance and Song (EDS) Winter 2004*

"The best singing we've ever had at the club"

*Montrose Folk Club, Scotland.*