

Damh the Bard

Nature, Myth, Magic, and Music



*Bring the enchantment of ancient myth, magic and
folklore to your event!*

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Biography

Damh the Bard (born Dave Smith) was obsessed by music from a very tender age. Regularly found by his parents singing at the top of his voice on his rocking horse to John Denver and Ralph McTell it soon became apparent what his life-long goals would be. He got his first guitar aged 8 years old, and was taught Irish folk by his teacher, a multi-instrumentalist Irishman by the name of Tim O'Leary. Dave played his first live concerts at the age of 11 in pubs on the Isle of Wight, and took his guitar to school at every opportunity to entertain his classmates.



Damh the Bard - is a modern-day Bard whose spirituality and love of folk tradition is expressed through his music, storytelling and poetry. Drawing on the Bardic tradition, his performances are both entertaining and educational, speaking directly to the heart, and never without a good splash of humour.

With eleven outstanding albums, and singing and speaking engagements all over the world, Damh has become one of the most popular contemporary pagan folk musicians. Along with his musical concerts, Damh has also given talks, run workshops and participated in panel discussions at conferences and camps in the UK, Europe, Australia, Canada and the USA, with his favourite topics including Druidry, The Mabinogion, Awen and the creative quest, magic, treelore, and Arthurian myth.

Damh's first album, *Herne's Apprentice*, was released in 2003 to extremely favourable reviews, following this up with *The Hills they are Hollow* in 2004, *Spirit of Albion* in 2006 and *The Cauldron Born* in 2008. In 2009 he released an album of traditional folk songs called *Tales from the Crow Man* and in 2010 released a long awaited live album *As Nature Intended* which was recorded at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon to a near capacity audience. That was followed by another studio album of original songs *Antlered Crown and Standing Stone* in 2012. *Sabbat* was released in early 2015. All have been equally well received by fans and the music press.

After the release of *Sabbat* Damh began a multi-year project to create the *Four Branches of the Mabinogion* in audio format, with song, story and film-type scoring. *Y Mabinogi – The First Branch* was released in 2017 with *The Second Branch* coming out the following year. *The Third Branch* was released in 2020, after which Damh plans to take a break to record another album of songs before returning to *The Fourth Branch*.

His inspiration comes from the ancient myths and legends of the British Isles and Ireland; from King Arthur to Taliesin; from the Welsh Mabinogion to old British folk customs.

Damh has always believed that his job is to entertain his audience and take them on a journey through the old stories and myths of this land. His audiences leave his concerts having been fully engaged by Damh, and with a deeper understanding of this land's ancient heritage.

He has performed extensively on the festival circuit in the UK, Australia, Europe and the USA, and is as much at home playing to an intimate audience of 50 to playing to 1500+ at the larger venues.

In August 2007 he was one of the featured folk singer/songwriters on the John Barleycorn Reborn compilation (produced by Woven Wheat Whispers and Coldspring Records) of modern folk artists who were considered to be breaking new ground in the current

folk scene by working deeper with the UK's mythology and folklore.

In 2012 an independent musical film called *Spirit of Albion* was released inspired by his songs.

Discography

Herne's Apprentice CB001 2002

Hills they are Hollow – CB002 2004

Spirit of Albion – CB003 – 2006

The Cauldron Born – CB004 - 2008

Tales from the Crown Man - CB005 - 2009

As Nature Intended (live) - Download Only - CB006 - 2010

Antlered Crown and Standing Stone - CB007 - 2012

Sabbat - CB008 - 2015

Y Mabinogi - The First Branch - CB009 - 2017

Y Mabinogi - The Second Branch - CB010 - 2018

Y Mabinogi - The Third Branch - CB011 - 2020

Compilations:

Barddas – Anthology of modern Bardic music – OTP01

John Barleycorn Reborn – a discovery of folk music of Dark

Britannica – Coldspring Records

To book Damh the Bard

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