

Wise Woman

Bio short copy

“You guys absolutely rock,” - BBC Radio 3

Blending ancient folk traditions with a bold contemporary flair, Wise Woman bring a heady collision of lush folk harmonies, cinematic strings and 90s girl power to any stage they set foot on.

Formed in the darkness of a pandemic winter, the group’s “startling and shimmering” (Folk Wales) songwriting blend of folk, jazz, and musical theatre sounds enchants audiences far and wide, from guesting on Radio 3’ In Tune, to opening for The Young Uns, to festivals including Secret Garden Party and Celtic Connections.

With a repertoire spanning traditional ballads and original compositions on subjects as diverse as fenland witches to drag artists, their powerful music and captivating storytelling transports audiences through a unique and transformative musical experience. Released after a successful fan-driven Crowdfunder, their new single Home Safe (April 2024), is a percussion filled celebration of friendship and body empowerment for all.

Wise Woman are Anna Pool, Lydia Bell, Charlotte Vaughan & Maddie Cutter.

www.wearewisewoman.com

[Wise Woman – Home Safe \(Official Video\)](#)

[Wise Woman - Fen Woman \(Official Video\)](#)

Word Count: 160

Bio Longer Copy

“You guys absolutely rock,” - BBC Radio 3

Blending ancient folk traditions with a bold contemporary flair, Wise Woman bring a heady collision of lush folk harmonies, cinematic strings and 90s girl power to any stage they set foot on.

Formed in the darkness of a pandemic winter, the group’s “startling and shimmering” (Folk Wales) songwriting blend of folk, jazz, and musical theatre sounds, has seen them enchant audiences far and wide, from guesting on Radio 3’ In Tune, to opening for Radio 2 Folk Award Winners The Young Uns, to festivals including Secret Garden Party, FolkEast and Celtic Connections.

As individual musicians, band members Anna Pool, Charlotte Vaughan, Lydia Bell and Maddie Cutter have collaborated with artists as varied as Anna Meredith, Mediaeval Baebes and Arctic Monkeys, and have even performed starring roles in West End musicals. "It's essential that our sound world is as colourful and vibrant as the women who make it," says Anna again. "That melting pot of influences represents a huge range of life experiences and everything we are as musicians."

That huge range of experiences has grown out of the long-term friendship at the core of Wise Woman. After meeting at senior school in Colchester, Anna and another founder Lydia Bell have been singing together for over 15 years, meeting Charlotte Vaughan and Maddie Cutter as students at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Their new single, Home Safe, a joy-filled, percussion fuelled anthem calling for night-time safety and body empowerment for all, is built out of the phrase they've used a thousand times after a late night gig and a lot of Whatsapp voice notes. "Home safe?" After a highly successful fan-driven Crowdfunding campaign, the band released Home Safe and video starring dancer and The Place Associate Artist, Anders Duckworth, in April 2024.

Alongside "Home Safe", their live show repertoire spans traditional ballads and original compositions on subjects as diverse as fenland witches to drag artists, including their critically acclaimed debut EP, *Thread* (2022). Evocative lyrics, dynamic instrumentation and captivating storytelling transports audiences through a unique and transformative musical experience.

Wise Woman are Anna Pool, Lydia Bell, Charlotte Vaughan & Maddie Cutter.

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[Wise Woman - Fen Woman \(Official Video\)](#)

Word Count: 360

Very Short Bio

Blending ancient folk traditions with a bold contemporary flair, Wise Woman bring a heady collision of lush folk harmonies, cinematic strings and 90s girl power to any stage they set foot on.

In just 2 years, their "startling and shimmering" (Folk Wales) blend of folk, jazz and musical theatre sounds have enchanted audiences far and wide, from guesting on Radio 3' In Tune, to playing festivals audiences from FolkEast to Celtic Connections, to opening for The Young Uns in 2023.

Evocative lyrics, dynamic instrumentation and captivating storytelling transports will audiences through a unique and transformative musical experience.

Word Count: 97

Band Individual Bios

Anna Pool

Anna Pool is a British composer, performer and theatre director. She creates musicals, operas & interdisciplinary projects that connect people to the places they live.

Recently her production of Weill's *Lady in the Dark* (Opera Zuid) won Place de l'Opera's Opera of the Year 2022 in the Netherlands. She is currently associate director of *The Book Thief* (DEM Productions/Leicester Curve) adapted by Jodi Piccolt and writing a folk electronica score for *Medieval Miracles* (Eastern Angles).

Other directing includes *Acis and Galatea* (Opera North), *Dust Child* (English Touring Opera), *Trident Moon* (Finborough Theatre) and a Wes Anderson inspired *Bastien und Bastien/ Der Schauspieldirektor* (Pop Up Opera UK), a finalist for a 2019 Off West End Award. Anna was associate director of Leeds Playhouse's acclaimed production of *A Little Night Music* between 2021-2022.

Anna is passionate about creating projects which inspire powerful conversations and connections between music, history and identity. These projects include *Apart/Mental* (winner of the Bury Court Opera Prize and a Rolf Lieberman Fund award), *These Wondering Stones* (Barbican/Museum of London), *Standing Together* (Opera North/Huddersfield Holocaust Memorial Trust), *SCRAWW* (Hall for Cornwall/Trebah Gardens), *Sound Tracks* (London Transport Museum/Guildhall School of Music and Drama), *Boys of Paradise* (workshOPERA/Tete a Tete) and 350 strong community music theatre work, *Return of the Unknown* (Marlowe Canterbury/Dover Marine Station). In 2021, Anna was awarded an Open Call Artists Award from Spitalfields Festival, creating a sonic journey through faith, identity and East London, *We Are But Shadows*.

As a performer, Anna explores the boundaries between folk, jazz and musical theatre. She was a member of classical chart topping experimental early music group, Mediaeval Baebes, between 2017-2021. Her power folk ensemble, Wise Woman released their debut EP, *Thread*, in November 2022, and were recently named "One of the most exciting discoveries of 2022" by Tom Robinson's Fresh on the Net music blog. In 2024, she will curate a cabaret of female and non-binary songwriters for Spitalfields Festival, debuting her new commission *Mother Trucker*, a song cycle based on the lives of female long-haul truckers.

Maddie Cutter

Since graduating from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 2016 with a BMus (Hons), Maddie has quickly gained a reputation as a collaborative and versatile cellist.

As co-founder and principal cellist of Parallax Orchestra, Maddie has become well-known in both the freelance classical, and the pop, rock and alternative music scenes. She has performed and recorded with Bring Me The Horizon and Alter Bridge, as well as featured in live shows with artists such as Paolo Nutini, Lewis Capaldi, Money, Whitney and Deaf Havana.

Maddie has toured regularly around the US and Europe with Anna Meredith since 2018, and has been on UK tours with Australian artist Penelope Trappes, Japanese electronic musician Anchorsong, and British band Money. She has recorded and performed live with pioneering string ensembles such as 12 Ensemble and Her Ensemble for projects with artists such as Kojey Radical and Bishi. Maddie is a member of power-folk quartet Wise Woman which released their debut EP Thread in 2022.

She has also worked alongside composers such as Isobel Waller-Bridge, Neil Davidge, Alex Baranowski, Stephen Warbeck, Max Pappenheim, Angus MacRae and Tom Lane. Maddie has recorded remotely for composers working on both Film and TV projects, including Tom Hodge, Aisling Brouwer, Emily Rice, Ollie Howell and Chris Warner.

Maddie's open-minded approach to music and composition has led her to perform in a number of theatres across London, including for multiple productions at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and an RSC production at Theatre Royal Haymarket. Maddie was the first ever musician to be employed at The Bridge Theatre, playing Grant Olding's score for solo cello and loop pedals for Lucinda Coxon's adaptation of *Alys Always*.

Charlotte Vaughan

Charlotte Vaughan is a South Walian singer and actress. Classically trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and Musical Theatre trained at the Royal Academy of Music. She made her professional debut as understudy Carlotta/Ensemble in *Phantom of the Opera* at (then) Her Majesty's Theatre, playing the role of opera singer Carlotta over 200 times.

She originated the role of April in workshops of new musical comedy *PS I'm A Terrible Person* (Soho Theatre & the Cockpit Theatre) and London in a workshop performance of *Change of Heart* (The Other Palace).

Charlotte has recently returned from a tour of China with *Titanic* the musical, playing Head Maid and understudying Alice Beane and Ida Strauss. In contrast she donned her sparkliest cutlass in Cornwall, playing Pirate Bianca Sanddune and Mermaid Minnelli in *Peter Pan* (Hall for Cornwall).

She has experience in session singing with Capitol Voices (Britain's Got Talent: The Champions, Cinderella) and often performs in cabarets in concerts across the UK.

She's finding her voice as a songwriter through the magic, support and talent within Wise Woman – exploring her love for celtic folklore she wrote *Mara*, a joyful acapella outcry of a selkie reunited with her sealskin which Wise Woman performed live on

BBC Radio 3's 'In Tune'. Charlotte's also proud to have penned their upcoming single *Home Safe*, an anthemic love song to female friendship.

Lydia Bell

Lydia's is a classic jazz voice, reminiscent of the greats, influenced by a lifetime of listening to Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Peggy Lee, and the great vocalists of the jazz era.

Having completed a Masters in Jazz Performance from the world renowned Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 2018, Lydia has since been working closely with several UK bands; her most notable collaborations include with Down For The Count, with whom she has performed at Ronnie Scotts Jazz club, Cadogan Hall, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, and Leeds Castle supporting the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. She is lucky enough to be a member of London Vocal Project, with whom she has recently recorded backing vocals for the forthcoming album by The Printmakers, a truly all-star band of British Jazz legends founded by Nikki Iles.

She is also a member of power folk quartet, Wise Woman, who released their debut EP *Thread*, hailed by Fresh on The Net as 'One of the most exciting discoveries of 2022', and proclaimed live on BBC Radio 3 "You guys absolutely ROCK!"