

Deborah Bonham – Biography

Only one word could truly describe the music of
Deborah Bonham: 'SPIRIT'

The spirit in the songs and music of Deborah Bonham draws on the hurt, pain, joy and anger that come with life for all of us. Negatives are decanted as positivity, from mistakes comes learning. From that spirit comes the determination to always push forward and celebrate life, sharing experiences with her audience. As she sings in the opening salvo from the album: “Pain is going away, it's gonna stop today. I'm gonna fly”.

So there could be only one title for the new album: '**SPIRIT**'

But Deborah also has soul. It's the soul that comes from her deep love and understanding of so many musical greats - Otis Redding, Etta James, Bonnie Raitt, Elkie Brooks, Lowell George and many more - all of whom are artists who surrounded themselves with great musicians who had that same 'feel'. And so it is with Deborah's band. It's also their instinctive affinity with the words being sung and how they absorb her emotions; sometimes soft, sometimes fierce.

The first single from the album, '*Take Me Down*' has received great reviews both in the UK and US, with the track spending currently 8 weeks week at **Number One** on the *Reverbnation UK Rock Chart*.

Recorded at a highly charged, personally emotional time in Chichester, UK and Nashville, USA, Deborah instinctively channeled all that was going on her life into the sessions. Co-produced with **Glenn Skinner** (Deborah Harry, Killing Joke), who also manned the desk for her last album 'Duchess'. On drums is **Marco Giovino** (Robert Plant's Band of Joy, John Cale, Norah Jones). Marco flew in especially from Nashville to record the drums in a Chapel local to Deborah and she then joined him in Nashville to finish the recording and mix with **Mike Poole** (Band of Joy, Rickie Lee Jones) and master with **Jim DeMain** (Michael McDonald, Patty Loveless, John Hiatt).

Other guests include pedal steel supremo, **B.J.Cole** and a very special appearance by **Robert Plant** on harmonica.

Throughout, Deborah's sympathetic band including bassist *Ian Rowley*, keyboardist *Gerard Louis* and guitarist *Peter Bullick*, sear, coax, blend, sweeten, compliment, rock and groove, proving (if proof be needed) why *Paul Rodgers* would have them as his band of choice for recent shows drawn entirely from his catalogue of legendary songs by Free. This Deborah Bonham 'live' band also includes drummer *Rich Newman* (Alvin Lee, Steve Marriott, Rory Gallagher) and the band have showcased several of the new songs in recent months, including the show-stopping, classic Bonham blues rock ballad, 'I Need Love' at Festivals and shows in the UK and Europe: The Great British Rock & Blues Festival, the massive Harley-Davidson European H.O.G. Rallies in France, Austria and Portugal and The Great British Folk Festival, where, even in the bands' stripped-down acoustic format, the songs connected with the audience.

And do you know why? They all see - and feel - the Spirit.

Deborah Bonham - A Brief History

Born in Worcestershire, the younger sister of the late John and Michael Bonham. Deborah was only five when John joined Led Zeppelin, and this powerful introduction sparked in her the overwhelming desire to write and perform. Her home was The Old Hyde farm, where she lived with her father, John Henry Bonham Snr, known as Jack, in the cottage at the back of The Old Hyde Farm. Her brother, John and his family, lived in the main House. While living there, Deborah and John's son Jason started writing and recording their own songs. At the age of 17, at Robert Plant's house in a nearby village, she recorded her first demos. Deborah sent out the songs anonymously and soon landed her first record deal with the major label Carerre Records, for whom she recorded the critically acclaimed album 'For You and the Moon'. The album reached the top 5 in the NME chart, was Simon Bates Record of the Week on BBC Radio 1 and sold extremely well in Europe, being voted 'Record of the Year' by Musik Mart, Germany. A period of recording for the Japanese label SAM Co. followed, and with press and radio promotion including interviews for Burrn and J Wave Radio. English label RPM, released the single, 'Perfect World' in 1995.

1997 saw two extremely successful trips to the US. Firstly, she performed live on LA's Rockline radio to three million listeners throughout North America and Canada, followed by a guest appearance with Jason Bonham and his band at the Whiskey A Go Go in Los Angeles. The success of the first trip led to a US tour with her band to open for The Jason Bonham Band

kicking off in Los Angeles at the 'House of Blues' with guests SLASH and TERRY REID. Dallas Fort Worth, Houston, New York and Chicago 'House of Blues' subsequently followed.

Back in the UK Deborah began recording 'The Old Hyde' (2004), the long awaited follow up to her debut album produced by legendary bass player **Mo Foster**, which featured **Jason Bonham** on drums throughout and a special guest appearance from **Mick Fleetwood** of **Fleetwood Mac**. Reviewers were equally impressed – The all influential Music Weeks's All Music Guide review judged “...one of the best blues-rock albums of the early 21st century”. Country Music Round-Up simply said '*...quite superb*'

Deborah's last album 'Duchess' (Warner Rhino 2008) was perceived by the press as her finest work to date. Consisting of 13 original compositions, it featured her forceful working band bassist Ian Rowley, keyboardist Gerard Louis, guitarist Peter Bullick and Jerry Shirley of Humble Pie on drums. Each song showcases Deborah's soulful singing and her effortless, sensitive approach to a gamut of styles from blues and soul to country and rock, and includes a moving duet with **Paul Rodgers** on 'Hold On' with **Jason Bonham** on drums. Reviews of 'Duchess' were glowing: Blues Matters! described Deborah as '*...a blues mama par excellence*'; the USA's Blues Revue listed her as '*...one of the New Women of Blues*' and Modern Guitars proclaimed '*...a celebration of soul, strength and family... the album stands as her finest work to date*'.

A blistering live set adds to the magic of Deborah Bonham and suggest that this is a band that must be seen and heard live. Having played festivals from Canterbury to Glastonbury, Bulldog Bash to Donington, Cambridge to Cropredy, Ripfest to Harley Davidson's European Festivals, Deborah's live performances have seen her open shows and duet with such luminaries as Paul Rodgers, Jools Holland, Fairport Convention, Ann Peebles, Paul Weller, Robert Plant, Foreigner, Nazareth, (Dan McCafferty performed his first-ever duet on tour in the UK with Deborah, singing the Lorraine Ellison soul classic 'Stay With Me Baby'). Humble Pie, Lonnie Donegan, Van Halen, Alannah Myles, Peter Frampton and Donovan. Deborah also performed alongside Ozzy Osbourne in the Czech Republic, where she returned for more shows in January 2011