

THE PROCLAIMERS – LIVE 2015

T IN 4 MINUTES - Four minute film clips from performance at T In The Park.

www.proclaimers.co.uk/cpt_news/video-the-proclaimers-live-at-t-in-the-park-2015/

THE HERALD –In a world of homogenised pop combos and die-cast singer-songwriter types, it is important to remember how thoroughly individual The Proclaimers are. Even more so than those other Reid brothers from East Kilbride, Craig and Charlie's existence as a Celtic soul Sam and Dave with a unique gift for combining social and political versifying with unsentimental love lyrics and melodic craft, taking the form of a couple of chunky specky guys from Leith, still seems a little remarkable.

METAL DISCOVERY – With the juxtaposition of the old and the new during the show's opening few songs, the timeless nature of The Proclaimers' songwriting and performance skills is made emphatic. Their inimitable and seamless blend of styles, incorporating folk, rock, punk, pop and new wave flavours is an indubitably infectious one whose perennial affects have stood, and will no doubt continue to stand, the test of time. Every song is delivered tonight with a healthy dose of sincere passion, a corollary of the Reids' axiomatic enthusiasm for the live performance, as they succeed in conveying songs' inherent emotions with heartfelt ardour.

Five years on from Charlie and Craig's first ever Lincoln show, their return to this historic city has been an unmitigated triumph. Big, beaming grins on each and every audience member's face as they exit the venue is a sure sign of such a success.

LIVERPOOL SOUND & VISION - There was an expectant hush that gathered momentum as the wave of the Philharmonic Hall's house lights were slowly turned down to a point where sunshine could not have penetrated even the deepest unforgiving shadow. Yet through the gathered together dark, the heart beats of eager musical premonition lit up and took notice, the strength of such force welling up and the tangible, almost pregnant explosion of what was to come almost feeling as if this was not a concert given by maestros of the popular music scene but of Gods walking on stage; such was the clamour to be audibly heard in the whispered voices of the venue's audience.

The Proclaimers remain a band that many, the overall majority who understand their talent and scintillating stance, cannot get enough of and after witnessing this particular gig in Liverpool, those who cannot appreciate such flair and engrossing music, simply would have been dismissed as not getting life.

A tremendous concert by one of Scotland's finest, a true blessing of an evening given by The Proclaimers.

GETINTOTHIS - We guess that's what live music should be all about. The Proclaimers ended up making everyone feel that they were all part of a shared experience that makes life just a little bit better.

ABERDEEN EVENING EXPRESS - THE Proclaimers made a triumphant return to the Granite City with a performance that left the crowd wanting more. Twins Charlie and Craig Reid had the audience in the palm of their hands from the moment they set foot on the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre stage.

The band mixed songs from the latest album Let's Hear It For The Dogs with classics from the last 30 years. This is the fourth time the pair have performed at the AECC and let's hope it is not the last. The fact fans travelled hundreds of miles to see the duo is testament to their songwriting and creating timeless tracks that you never tire of.

THE EDGE – The Proclaimers are cultural phenomena. Besides creating *that one song* that just about everyone knows, they have been producing music to bring Scotland's sound and soul to fans the world over for nearly 30 years now; and all of it was beautifully on show when they played Southampton's very own Guildhall.

The Proclaimers had packed the Guildhall's expansive space to the rafters, with not a spare seat free – not that anyone was left sitting down by the end, mind you. Opening with 'Sky Takes The Soul' from their first album back in 1987, twins Charlie and Craig Reid played a stunning cross section of their huge discography with the energy and passion which has taken them across the world and back.

The music of The Proclaimers has transcended decades and generations, and they continue to bring infectious enthusiasm and a raw passion for music to every performance. They are an utter joy to watch perform – and no gig I've ever been to ever offers quite so much fun.

WALES ONLINE - The Reid twins made a triumphant return to the Welsh capital last night and put on a performance that befitted their legendary status. From the moment they stepped on stage they had the adoring crowd eating out of the palm of their hands. Mixing songs from their latest album *Let's Hear It For The Dogs*, with classics from more than three decades worth of material. The choice was spot-on. Of course they weren't going to please everyone. but the songs that were played were brilliant from start to finish.

WESTERN MORNING NEWS - The packed beach arena swayed as the boys sang out to us that 'Irish girls are pretty' in a set which included a set-list of favourites such as *Let's Get Married*, *Sunshine on Leith*, *Letter to America*, and that hit-making, long-march of love, *I'm Gonna Be*. What ever happened to scarves as part of band merchandising? We could have done with a sea of them to sway along to the pounding, soulful sounds as The Proclaimers filled the coastal valley with their harmonic vocals – blimey, those twins can sing.

WEST BRITON - Following on the main stage were Friday night's headliners The Proclaimers, who, as anyone who has seen them live before would expect, were simply fantastic. To the uninitiated, the Scottish duo are best known for a couple of quirky sing-along songs from the 1980's. However, backed by their superb band, Charlie and Craig Reid possess more musical skill than most, and a back-catalogue to die for. From the glorious sentimentality and pinpoint harmonies of *'Sunshine on Leith'*, to the twirling joy of *'Let's Get Married'* they had the crowd in the palm of their hand from the outset.

It was a fantastic performance, and a fitting end to the first day of the festival.

BRADFORD TELEGRAPH - There was no holding back, identical twins Craig and Charlie Reid belted out number after number and were rewarded for their energy with roars of approval from their staunch army of followers. Some of the new tunes broke away from love and affection entering the out-of-comfort zone touching on child abuse in *Then Again* where Jimmy Savile gets a name-check, then there was *What school?* which deals with bigotry - they both had bite, these gutsy brothers dare to tread where others might not, displaying life in all its rawness.

It was for the sake of the beautiful building's historic structure and to satisfy the howls and foot stomps for more from the fans, that they did come back and did give more with a brilliant encore. They made our hearts fly, pity the night had to go and rush by.

LANCASHIRE EVENING POST - It was a large crowd at The Guild Hall and I could feel the sense of anticipation and excitement in the air. The Proclaimers are not about fancy staging, costumes, elaborate dancing or gimmicks. Tonight was simply about the music and that was more than enough. Everyone thinks of The Proclaimers as the twins Charlie and Craig Reid – which is true – but they also have a fantastic band with them on tour. Saying that, the talented brothers also play guitar and tambourine.

There were a couple of dedications, Let's Get Married for those newlywed or about to, and I'm On My Way for a fan celebrating a birthday. There were love songs (Sunshine on Leith), satirical songs (Role Model) and political songs (Cap in Hand), lively tunes and ones which were slower with heartfelt lyrics. The popular Letter from America was sung early on but, saving the best until last, the twins sang the famous 500 Miles as the finale, which got most of the crowd up on their feet. After a standing ovation, we enjoyed two more tunes before sadly the night came to its conclusion.

LEICESTER MERCURY - Well, I could write 500 words and I could write 500 more, *writes Sean Tizzard*, but seeing as that would go well over my word count, I'd better be more concise; the Proclaimers declared their magic at De Montfort Hall on Monday night with aplomb. Brothers Charlie and Craig Reid have been peddling their unique brand of Caledonian soul since the late 1980s, but their popularity shows no sign of declining and it's pretty much a full house that warmly welcomes them to the stage.

It's easy to overlook the absolute quality of their back catalogue.

By the time that they play this to close their set, the crowd are up out of their seats, clapping, dancing and showing considerable appreciation for the gig they've witnessed, when they're on your doorstep this is a feelgood show too good to miss. Like fine wines, this is an act getting better with age.

HIFI PIG - Craig and Charlie Reid have come along way since they signed off the dole in a bleak benefit office on Edinburgh's west side and signed onto the government's Enterprise Allowance Scheme, with which they helped to fund the first six months of their musical career as The Proclaimers. Ten albums, a musical and a film based on their songs, and a track in the Shrek soundtrack later, they are playing the second of two sold out gigs on their home turf, there's a pre-Christmas buzz in the Edinburgh air and a palpable sense of excitement in the auditorium.

Edinburgh loves its own and when the brothers take the stage accomplished by their band, the roof threatens to come off. From the first line of The Sky Takes The Soul from their debut album, This Is The Story, it's clear that of the 3000 people here tonight, 2999 of them are going to sing along and be word perfect with every song. Three songs in, if the wind has been in the right direction, it seems entirely likely that Letter From America was heard somewhere in Wisconsin. Sunshine On Leith is as good as a song as been written by anyone ever. My heart was broken, My heart was broken; eight words in two lines, delivered with a devastating economy that contains worlds of meaning. We are less than 2 miles from the heart of Leith tonight and hearing Craig and Charlie sing this really is one of those shivers up the spine moments, bolstered by a beautiful steel guitar solo from Zac Ware.

A night of top tunes is inevitably topped off by a storming rendition of I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles). I'm left wondering how any encore is ever going to be able to match that but Make My Heart Fly, Joyful Kilmarnock Blues and Life With You show me how, leaving the audience clamouring for more after the house lights go up. The Proclaimers may have come far but it's good to have them home.

WALKINGTALKING - I went to see the Proclaimers last night at the Royal Concert Hall on Buchanan Street. They were magnificent, playing a decent mixture of old and new songs from their vast back catalogue. I was there with my mum and ended up singing along, jumping up and down and generally being as joyous as one can be when holding one's jacket.

Their songs are well written, emotional but not sentimental, deeply Scottish but concerned with the human condition. I can probably find a Proclaimers song for every mood, every day. Each morning, when I travel to work, I listen to music. Without fail, there is a Proclaimers song there somewhere.

The Proclaimers aren't that fashionable, really. But they make great music that is beautiful and downright awesome. And they still do. The new album, *Let's Hear It For The Dogs*, is rather fine. They are still great and particularly live, particularly when there is nothing to do except go absolutely radge.

YORK THE PRESS - Hence Sunday's full house and the exuberant atmosphere that greeted their arrival. Like the Hull band The Beautiful South, as if by stealth, they have piled up a mountain of clever, witty songs of love and politics, rooted in folk but with spiky pop hooks, but where Paul Heaton and co could be arch, The Proclaimers are fuelled by emotional honesty. Craig and Charlie may be accompanied by percussion, guitar/mandolin, bass and keyboards, but the meat here is the Reids' instinctive two-part harmonies, one brother keeping time with his right foot, the other with his left, as if to complete the sibling bond. They don't look at each other as they sing, but this is not some cap-throwing Rosberg-Hamilton rivalry, so much as the unspoken link of twins, and at 53 their voices are as powerful, thrilling and moving as they have ever been.

Melodies are glorious and tunes rousing, whether romantic, raucous or rebellious; words are never wasted, and songs seldom stretch beyond three minutes as The Proclaimers perform 24 in 90 minutes briskly but never brusquely. They give plenty of exposure to tenth album *Let's Hear It For The Dogs*, yet find room for all the familiar favourites.

MANCHESTER THE REVIEW - The full vocals and harmonies of the brothers are the strength of the band. They effortlessly take you from heart-ache to joy, without breaking a sweat. In an age of fancy gimmicks and flash stage shows, it's refreshing to see a band let their music and vocal range shine through.

No one could a leave with any complaints, a crowd-pleasing set to delight die-hard and casual fans alike, the right blend of classic and new material, with vocals right out of the top draw, you can't ask for much more than that

THE SCOTSMAN - The Proclaimers are not shy about giving their public what they want: the regulation hitfest of songs which never seem to grow old, such is the craft with which they were composed and the spirit with which they are still performed.

Listening again to these tunes, which are part of the musical landscape, it's the idiosyncratic slant on timeless pop traditions which impresses. *You Should Have Been Loved* is their particular version of a Midtown dance floor filler, *Joyful Kilmarnock Blues* a brilliant stomping take on fired-up rhythm'n'blues, while their ballads were as tenderly judged as any classic croon. Just when you thought *Sunshine on Leith* could not get any more blushing romantic, the pedal steel solo delivered the coup de coeur.

The fan requests and dedications to audience members flowed – clearly these songs resonated deeply with those in attendance. Why worry about the nuances of a proposal when The Proclaimers say it most candidly and sincerely on *Let's Get Married*? Songs from their latest album, *Let's Hear It For the Dogs*, were all received attentively. Some may well make it on to that list of Proclaimers set essentials alongside *Letter From America*, an anthem to engage the brain, the emotions and the feet.

There were plenty of those held in reserve for the celebratory closing salvo – *I'm On My Way*, *I Met You*, *I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)*, the joyous *Life With You*, all songs you cannot greet sitting down.

www.proclaimers.co.uk