

Chad Stuart & Jeremy Clyde Celebrate Fifty Years With CD & Tour

IN BRIEF

September of 2010 marks a unique anniversary for Chad & Jeremy. It sees a half-century since Chad Stuart first met Jeremy Clyde. To celebrate this event, Chad & Jeremy will be out on the road for another of their popular US concert tours, but this time with a special twist - available at their live shows will be an exclusive compact disc entitled ***Fifty Years On...***, featuring ten songs selected for this disc because of their personal meaning to Chad & Jeremy over the course of their musical journey together.

THE STORY

The time: September 1960. The place: a rehearsal room at London's Central School of Speech and Drama. Jeremy Clyde takes up the story...

"I'm in the top rehearsal room at Central finishing a pretty unconvincing attempt at some show tune. The 'band' at the time is myself on classical guitar and a classmate on clarinet. We tend to settle for that old standby, "Summertime", from Porgy & Bess. Suddenly someone comes through the door with startling news. A new guy has arrived. Apparently he can really play. All the Shadows hits on guitar. And piano. Wow, a musical genius!"

That "musical genius" was Chad Stuart, a new student at the school, then known as David Stuart Chadwick. Jeremy continues:

"When we meet minutes later, it gets better. Not only do we play in the same folkie guitar style but we sing together in what is clearly a remarkable blend. He can play the Shadows' "Apache" all the way through! And then he sits down at the piano and rips into "Bad Penny Blues". Instantly, we are brothers. I don't think I ever called him David. It was "Chad" from the first. Cooler, jazzier."

Before long the two are not only practicing their vocal blend on the back stairs at Central, but performing in a band called "The Jerks". Chad says:

"We played guitars and sang back-up vocals. We tried to be cool, with mixed results! We wore shades, had long hair, and didn't play very well. One day we were thrown out of a dance hall because "your hair is too long and your lead singer can't sing" - all true! Time marched on and the Jerks broke up. Understandably in retrospect. Jeremy and I carried on as a duo playing wherever there was food, basically."

Singing for their supper, they eventually became popular in the folk clubs of London, especially at a club called Tina's, where they were discovered by John Barry, composer of the James Bond theme and many other classic movie scores. Chad explains:

"At the time he was leaving EMI to work as a producer for a very small British label called Ember Records. He came to Tina's and he liked what he heard, so he signed us. Suddenly, this young budding arranger [Chad] was being asked to write the a-side of the first single, as well as being 'allowed' to arrange it. Quite an honor, and a bit nerve-wracking, when you've got a legend like John Barry leaning over your shoulder."

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That first record was "Yesterday's Gone", and after modest success in the UK, it was released in the USA at the height of Beatlemania in 1964. The rest is history. With hits such as "A Summer Song", "Willow Weep For Me", "Before And After", "Distant Shores" and others, as well as classic TV appearances on such shows as *The Dick Van Dyke Show* and *Batman*, Chad & Jeremy took America by a storm during the 1960s. But it all started on that one day in September of 1960 - fifty years ago.

To celebrate this very personal anniversary, Chad & Jeremy will be touring the country starting September of 2010 with a brand-new CD release available exclusively for fans at their concert events. The disc, entitled ***Fifty Years On...***, is an intriguing look at the past and a hint of things to come, featuring songs that have a real personal meaning to Chad & Jeremy during their long musical journey together.

NEW CD DETAILS

Fifty Years On... includes the following: Apache/Take Out Some Insurance/Well All Right/Don't Look Back/Doghouse Blues/So Right Tonight/What's In A Name?/Lady Wants A Gentleman/Closed For Repairs/You Need Feet

You may wonder why these particular songs were selected for this anniversary disc. Wonder no more...

"Apache" holds a very special place in both Chad & Jeremy's hearts as the song that Chad first played to 'prove' that he actually knew all the Shadows' hits. Later, C&J performed the song as members 'The Jerks' in their pre-fame days, and feature it in their modern concerts. Also from those distant days is the Buddy Holly classic "Well All Right".

From their 1960s heyday come two numbers - "Take Out Some Insurance" and "You Need Feet". "Insurance" has never been commercially recorded by the group before, but has its origins in their very first tour of the USA, and visits to small radio stations across the USA where they discovered that old 45 rpm singles which had slipped off of the charts were being thrown out by disc jockeys. Ever the record collector, Jeremy rescued these promo records by the handful, and still has the vinyl copy of "Insurance" that he liberated from a US radio station sometime in 1964. The song is now included in their concert performances. The light-hearted closing number for their modern-day concerts is "You Need Feet", best remembered as the final song on *The Ark* - Chad & Jeremy's final original 1960's album.

Representing their all-too-brief 1980's comeback is "Don't Look Back". This song, co-written by Jeremy Clyde and songwriting partner David Pierce, was first heard during their late 1980s concert appearances, and has been revisited with a new touch for a new decade. Says Chad, "Stylistically, it's the way the Jerks might have played it back in the day, if they could've figured out how!"

Two songs from two different pens - in two very different styles - represent Chad & Jeremy's popular 21st century live concerts. First, "Doghouse Blues" is exactly what it claims to be - a bluesy autobiographical piano number from Chad Stuart. Secondly, "Lady Wants A Gentleman" is a poignant Clyde-Pierce track that has proven a big hit with concert audiences in recent years.

Lastly, we see a glimpse of the C&J that has never been heard before. "So Right Tonight", "What's In A Name?", and "Closed For Repairs" are three Clyde-Pierce numbers that make their debut on this release, and point the way forward to the Chad & Jeremy of the coming decade and beyond.

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That's the last fifty years, Chad & Jeremy style - in a way you've never experienced them before. Be sure to come to one of the Fall 2010 shows and share in this very special anniversary.



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C&J also have a website especially for your professional needs: <http://www.chadandjeremypress.com>