



Matt Crum

My musical exploits began at an early age, whacking a tambourine along to the Chinewrde Morris Dancers. I have no recollection of this, but there are pictures to prove it. It was a blue tambourine, think we've still got it somewhere. Not very impressive so far.

Things changed when I started playing the Piano. As soon as I was competent enough, my dad let me play with his old band, The Somerville Gents. That's where the trouble started. Joe soon joined too, and we had quite a few gigs at one point, but this sadly fizzled out.

I picked up the saxophone when I was about 13, after getting annoyed at the clarinet, moving on to soprano sax after a few years. I joined the Chinewrde band (again) and the monster ceilidh band Mallemarokers roared around England for a year or two as a result of that. Once that had disbanded, I joined Steamchicken (who I am still with today) and then went to uni.

My piano playing suffered another catastrophic blow, when I decided to learn how to play jazz- throwing all the technique that I had built up out of the window. I worked hard (no) at uni and got to know some fantastic musicians. I learned how to play African drums, Gamelan, Timpani(!) and various other clangy things. I also decided to try the melodeon. My dad had played it for years and had just bought himself a shiny new one. He was kind enough to lend me his old one and within minutes I was utterly confused and didn't like it any more. I took it as a challenge to work out how the blasted thing worked, which is still a battle I'm fighting today. I'm slowly working out how to make it go.

My folk playing was put on hold while at uni- I was a member of the funk band add9, and was involved in lots of jazz groups, culminating in a year as pianist for the LUU Danceband, which was ridiculously fun.

Towards the end of my final year, Will had the idea that he wanted to play at Warwick Folk Festival. He didn't have a band, but he got the gig anyway. Two weeks before that gig, we sat down for the first time and decided that we needed to learn some tunes, which we did (thankfully) and really enjoyed performing. Thus the QP was formed.