



Winner of the BBC's Best Tradition Award (1999)
Winner of MOJO's 'Roots Music' Award (2009)

Topic Records marks its 70th anniversary on 14th September with the release of the 7 x cd book set, 'Three Score and Ten' + TOPIC 70, a series of concerts at London's Southbank.

In 2009, Topic Records celebrates its 70th anniversary. This makes it the oldest, *truly* independent record company in the world and an extremely sprightly, almost ageless senior citizen compared to youngsters Motown, Island and Rough Trade who also enjoy big anniversaries this year.

To celebrate this significant moment in Topic's illustrious history, on the 14th September, Topic will publish 'Three Score and Ten', a sumptuous 7 cd set complete with a 108 page book, charting 7 decades of recording and social history. The set will retail at £50 (or less) and has been lovingly compiled by David Suff, in conjunction with Topic Records M.D. of 40 years, Tony Engle.

September also sees the label co-hosting TOPIC 70, a series of 4 concerts at London's Southbank (including a Topic inspired night hosted by Magpie's Nest & Folklahoma! On the 19th), an event complete with a photographic exhibition and live foyer events.

Topic, which started as an off-shoot of the Workers Music Association in 1939, has released a unique and important array of recordings : from Paul Robeson, Pete Seeger, Vanessa Redgrave and Ewan McColl, to Nic Jones, Shirley Collins, Dick Gaughan, Martin Carthy, The Watersons, June Tabor, John Tams and Martin Simpson, to the current generation, including the multi award-winning Eliza Carthy. Topic has also been responsible for releasing acclaimed field recordings from around the globe, but most significantly perhaps, from the UK, where the groundbreaking 20 cd 'Voice of the People' set was met with critical and popular acclaim on release in 1999, the label's 60th birthday. (*'This is truly a landmark collection. Quite simply, awesome'* – The Times)

TOPIC 70 – LIVE EVENTS AT LONDON'S SOUTHBANK CENTRE -
A celebration of the world's oldest, *truly* independent record company

www.southbankcentre.co.uk
Belvedere Road
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During the past 70 years, Topic Records has quietly built a deserved reputation for not compromising the nature of its work or that of the independent-spirited artists it represents. TOPIC 70 at Southbank Centre celebrates the work of this important record company and presents three very special concerts, featuring some of the label's current recording artists, plus an additional Topic inspired evening on the 19th September at the Purcell Rooms, hosted by Magpie's Nest and Folklahoma.

THE WATERSON FAMILY & THE ELIZA CARTHY BAND - 11 September - Royal Festival Hall

The Waterson Family are one of England's premier singing families and their performances, featuring closely woven harmonies, have played a hugely influential role in popularising folk music. Known in the early days as 'the folk Beatles', due to their huge cult following, this is an opportunity to see the entire family and hear examples of their repertoire from the past 40 years. Tonight's concert also features appearances by the multi-award winning Eliza Carthy Band.

MARTIN SIMPSON & BIG BAND - 17 September - Queen Elizabeth Hall

Throughout his career virtuoso folk guitarist and singer, Martin Simpson, has continually built on his great love of British, Anglo-American and Afro-American traditional forms. This concert presents a unique opportunity to see Martin perform with other stellar musicians including Danny Thompson, Andy Cutting and BJ Cole.

JUNE TABOR in Concert - 18 September - Queen Elizabeth Hall

June Tabor is rightly renowned as one of Britain's greatest interpreters of popular song. She is a performer with an extraordinary vocal range and the ability to mix intensity, passion, drama and humour into both her live and recorded performance. In this rare London appearance, Tabor will explore the unique relationship between the people of these islands and the sea.

WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT TOPIC RECORDS

"I've been buying and scrounging Topic records since 1954. It feels like Topic has always been there, quietly doing good work. Like a backbone' – **John Peel (1999)**

'If it came to pass that Rough Trade would end up as part of the tradition started by the father of them all, the great Topic Records, I would be very proud. I am referring to the tradition of great independent labels. Topic has always been an inspiration to me and its roots and riches grow more precious as the years go by..' - **Geoff Travis – (M.D. Rough Trade - 2009).**

"70 years! Topic records might be the greatest recording institution in the history of British music. They make most so-called indie labels look pretty corporate to be sure. Their consistency, musical purity and genuine independence is second to none and they deserve to be celebrated properly". – **Laurence Bell – (M.D. Domino**

Records - 2009)

"Topic Records has always been an inspiration. It's a wonderful thing that this very musical, daring and uncompromising institution is with us and thriving. Wishing Topic many happy birthdays to come. " - **Nick Gold -(MD - World Circuit - 2009).**

"I don't know how the British musical landscape would have looked without Topic being there all those years. A vital component of British culture" - **Richard Thompson (Singer & guitarist - 2009)**

"Pundits in the mainstream music business use terms like "Independent", "left field" and "edgy" as if such concepts have only recently been invented, but Topic have been all those things since before the dawn of rock'n'roll. In their loving hands, the deepest roots of our musical traditions have survived, thrived and evolved into inspiring new forms that their founders could scarcely have imagined" - **Ian Anderson - (Editor fRoots Magazine – 2009)**

"I always think that while we still have The Archers, Test Match Special and Topic Records, we still have hope. Topic is a guardian angel of the best bits of our musical roots - and the arrival of a new cd from them is a portent of something real and special. The fact that Topic has been doing what it does for 70 years makes the label nothing short of a phenomenon' - **Colin Irwin - (music journalist - 2009)**

"PPL is proud to represent Topic records and the extraordinary repertoire that they have released in their distinguished history." - **Jonathan Morrish - (PPL. Director of PR & Corporate Communications - 2009)**

"Imagine if Topic's music had never been recorded. What a strong influence it has had, what an echo of authentic voices over the years. Long may it last' - **Polly Toynbee - (The Guardian - 2009)**

"Topic Records has been a constant feature of the folk, world and all things interesting in music for as long as I can remember..A huge achievement. Happy Birthday!" - **Alison Wenham - (Chairman and CEO - Association of Independent Music - 2009)**

"Topic Records has preserved and promoted the singing voice of working Britain. .It is also a charmingly idiosyncratic label.. Every Topic release has something interesting to offer if you meet the music half way. At 70 they're just getting their second wind".- **Jac Holzman - (Founder, Elektra Records/Senior Advisor to the Chairman, Warner Music Group - 2009)**

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