

# Sisters in Song

Singer/songwriter **Linda Simpson** worked with the legendary **Magna Carta** for 26 years . In those years she worked in many different countries and made many friends and contacts. Her final concert with the band was the 40<sup>th</sup> year celebration concert in **The Royal Theater Carré** in Amsterdam; May 2009.

Since then she has bought and now lives on a narrow boat in England. She has learnt to handle her boat single handed so that she doesn't have to rely on anyone else to get her where she needs to be and runs her '**Mama Don't**' project (<http://www.mamadont.co.uk>) from the boat as she travels around the country.

So far in the UK she has been involved with The Open Mic competition as a judge (<http://www.openmicuk.co.uk/>) and will be at the Birmingham live show in October. She has arranged a festival for new talented musicians, started a couple of new venues, and visited as many Open Mic venues as possible in order to help where she can. She arranges local radio sessions, encourages people to have house concerts and introduces people to others for mutual benefit. She started the 'Mama Don't' record label and has put out an album of her own material to fund the project, and intends to record other musicians for later releases.

Next year she will be operating a mobile Open Mic project along the canals and looking to involve musicians with other projects operated by other associations. She will be having talks with British Waterways to see if they might agree to book new local talent for the various shows that take place each year. She is committed to 'Making Music Happen'.

Of course working with Magna Carta means that Linda also knows many people in The Netherlands and it would be strange if she didn't also do something here so you won't be surprised to hear that she is working with a very talented new Dutch artist; **Elrieke van Gelderen** <http://www.elrieke.nl>

The two met at an outdoor concert in Epe where the late night camp fire was the perfect backdrop for a jam session. Linda heard Elrieke sing, was an instant fan and the two became firm friends and so when Linda asked Elrieke if she liked the idea of doing some concerts together. The answer was 'yes' and the 'Sisters in Song' idea became a reality.

Linda was recently heard to say 'I have seen Elrieke go from strength to strength, I am very proud of her and just want her to be the star that she deserves to be'

Linda is obviously the veteran here, but there are no age barriers on the stage and the two women are happy to give their audiences a glimpse of the magic that brought them together in their love of music.

See them and you will have to agree that they truly are

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