



ARTIST :  
**Eliza Carthy**

ALBUM TITLE :  
**'Dreams of Breathing Underwater'**

LABEL ;  
**Topic Records**

RELEASE DATE :  
**23<sup>rd</sup> June 2008**

ALBUM LAUNCH:  
**9<sup>th</sup> June Madame JoJo's**

### **'A gloriously natural singer' – Q Magazine**

Eliza Carthy is undoubtedly one of the most impressive and engaging performers of her generation. Winner of 2 Nationwide Mercury Prize nominations and innumerable other accolades over a 15 year career, Eliza has performed and recorded with a diverse array of artists from Paul Weller to Rufus and Martha Wainwright, from Nick Cave to Joan Baez.

**'Dreams of Breathing Underwater'** is Eliza's latest album and her second, which is self-penned (bar one track 'Hug You Like A Mountain' by Rory McLeod). Due for release via her long standing (and *truly* independent ) label, Topic Records, it has been co-produced by Ben Ivitsky in Edinburgh.

The 12 tracks not only showcase an inventive, innovative singer and fiddle-player, but also reveal Eliza as a gifted musical conceptualist. Powerful, vital and exuberant rhythms, absorbed from her travels around the globe, characterise **'Dreams of Breathing Underwater'**, a highly original album. Percussion, bass, brass and a chamber orchestra weave a rich tapestry against which to display her incomparable voice. A range of accomplished performers and fellow musicians, including Eddi Reader and Toby Shippey (Salsa Celtica), provide excellent support.

From an early age Eliza was championed by John Peel and Billy Bragg. She featured on Billy's Grammy winning album with Wilco, 'Mermaid Avenue'. In 2006, she appeared on 'Rogues Gallery' an album created by Hal Wilner and Johnny Depp and most recently, contributed to another successful collaborative project, 'Imagined Village' (Realworld).

Touring on and off since the age of 14, Eliza has performed, recorded or appeared on the same stage with a startling array of musical heroes from around the globe including Damon Albarn, Chango Spasiuk and Bryan Ferry. She's appeared at a huge number of live events, benefits and multi-artist

concerts including, Patti Smith's Meltdown (with Marianne Faithful, Yoko Ono and Kristin Hersh), played a significant part in the 'Daughters of Albion' concerts and in October 2007, led the BBC Electric Proms concert celebrating the songs of her aunt, 'A Tribute to Lal Waterson'.

Yorkshire-born and bred, Eliza recently relocated from a Scottish farm house to her new home, a Gothic Arch in a forest in the Midlands. She grew up immersed in the world of traditional music. She still divides her time between touring and recording with her legendary parents, Martin Carthy and Norma Waterson (as Waterson;Carthy) as well as engaging in numerous pioneering solo and band projects, currently including work with Pere Ubu and an artist in residence in Antarctica.

In what has become something of a parallel career, Eliza has co-presented the BBC Radio 3 World Music Awards with Benjamin Zephaniah - an event that was broadcast on BBC Four. She was a regular guest-presenter on the BBC Radio 2 Mark Radcliffe Show and has made many appearances on BBC TVs 'Later with Jools'. In addition, Eliza has presented her own four part series on the history of English Folk on BBC Radio 2, was a guest presenter for BBC Radio 3 and featured prominently in the BBC Four Folk Britannia season. She was recently the subject of an hour long ITV documentary('Heaven & Earth') and on 27th April 2008 is the subject of another TV documentary, this time on Channel 5 ('My Music').

Describing herself simply as a 'modern British musician', she has become one of the most dazzling musicians of a generation. She has more than most, revitalised folk music and captured the most hardened of dissenters with intelligent, charismatic and boundary-crossing performance.

Fearless, colourful and maverick in the best tradition of English songwriters, '**Dreams of Breathing Underwater**' presses Carthy's many and varied skills into action.

**'Seriously impressive'** – The Telegraph

**FOR TOUR & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** : [www.eliza-carthy.com](http://www.eliza-carthy.com)

**FOR ALL MEDIA ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT :**

**Siân Williams on 020 7223 7456 or [sian@riotsquadpublicity.com](mailto:sian@riotsquadpublicity.com)**

**or**

**Harriet Simms on 07958 539951 at [glassceilingpr@btconnect.com](mailto:glassceilingpr@btconnect.com)**