

TOY HEARTS NEWS

March 2010

A note from the Editor...

Hello all!
Firstly I have to apologise for the tardiness of this newsletter, the last few months have been



very busy for the band and there is not only a lot to catch up on, but also lots of new plans unfolding for the year ahead. The most exciting and important news is the release of our third album, 'Femme Fatale'. Although a lot of the details are still to be finalised, it is scheduled for release in June, with distribution from a record label that means you should be able to buy it in the shops! We will be doing lots of promotion, performing across the UK & Europe this summer, before heading Stateside again in the fall. We are hoping for really good things to come from this album, we are very proud and can't wait for everyone to hear it soon!

Hannah and her Collings!



been overdue a new mandolin and she is sounding better than ever right now, we can't wait to get back out gigging to put some road miles on the newbie! If you are not familiar with Collings check out www.collingsguitars.com to see their great range of finely crafted instruments.

Bluechip endorsement



In more good news for The Toy Hearts we are very pleased to announce that all three of us are the proud endorsees of Bluechip picks. Matthew Goins, based out of Knoxville TN, has developed these great picks that are, in our opinion, the closest sounding material to

real tortoiseshell. However, the bonus of using Bluechip is that they don't wear down so no need for the constant filing and reshaping needed with a shell pick. We all use a different pick from the range, Sophia uses the TD60 guitar pick, Hannah the 50 mandolin pick and Stewart the dobro/reso thumb pick, BCT-reso1M.

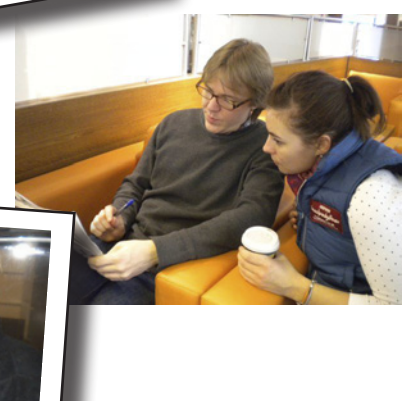
Check out their website www.bluechippick.net

Hannah is very proud to announce that she is now the owner of a beautiful new Collings mandolin - Santa was indeed very generous this year! However, The Toy Hearts would really like to thank Steve McCreary at Collings and Tommy Sivert from Gold Tone for helping Santa make sure his delivery had the correct specifications! We visited the Collings factory in Austin back in 2007 so we know a lot of care is put into each instrument that they produce, and we are thrilled to have one as permanent member of the band! Hannah has long

Bluegrass Jamboree Roundup

It seems a very long time ago now but December saw The Toy Hearts travelling around pretty much all the major cities in Germany, on a bus with North Carolinians The Steep Canyon Rangers, and old time duo Carl Smith and Beverly Jones. Every one had a real blast on the tour - it was intense, very cold and snowy at times, but also a lot of fun. And, as any good tour should include copious amounts alcohol consumption, far too much German beer and Jack Daniels was drunk by all involved! It was particularly exciting for us that the German crowds seemed really interested in how we combine Django-esque swing with contemporary bluegrass, it was even suggested that perhaps we should call our new sound Gypsy Grass ! The Toy Hearts would like to say a big thank you to Steve Amadeo who was not only a great musician and travelling companion, but also took it rather well when due to the cold, his poor old bass cracked in two right at the heel on the penultimate show! A big thanks also to Werner Schuette for being the coolest sound man we've ever worked with, and wonderful bluegrass music promoter Rainer Zellner, for putting the whole shebang together, and also for getting up and playing mandolin for the encore on every night of the tour! There are videos from The Toy Hearts performance at Fabrik in Hamburg on the [videos page](#) of the [Toy Hearts website](#), and below are links to videos of the finale numbers of the show, where all the bands played together, usually bringing the house down!

Will The Circle Be Unbroken
Cluck Old Hen
I'll Stay Around
You've Been A Friend To Me



Femme Fatale

We recorded our third album in January in Nashville, and although we don't have any audio snippets yet, we can show you some of the photos we took at the studio while we were making it. The super talented (and Grammy nominated!) David Mayfield produced *Femme Fatale* for us, and it was engineered by Ben Surrat, at his studio The Rec Room, in Nashville. Eight time IBMA Bass Player of the Year Missy Raines played double bass for us. We are also indebted to Jesse Cobb of the Infamous Stringdusters for laying down some killer mandolin and Ross Holmes of Cadillac Sky for taking on fiddle duties. Finally, Bryan Simpson, also of Cadillac Sky fame, sings the title track as a duet with Hannah. Phew! The whole experience of making this record was a real joy for us, we were honoured and humbled to work with such talented people.





Gig Guide

March

Date	Venue	City
18/3/2010	Garstang Unplugged	Garstang
19/3/2010	The Chindit	Wolverhampton
26/3/2010	The Regent Centre	Newtown
27/3/2010	Katie Fitzgerald s	Stourbridge

April

Date	Venue	City
22/4/2010	The Fighting Cocks	Wolverhampton
23/4/2010	Private Function	Birmingham
24/4/2010	Market Harborough Leisure Centre supporting The Blockheads	Market Harborough
25/4/2010	The Roadhouse	Birmingham

May/June

Date	Venue	City
5/5/2010	Up In Arms, Biddulph Town Hall	Biddulph
29/5/2010	The Bigge Venue	Redditch
4/6/2010	The Chindit	Wolverhampton
11/6/2010	The Green Note	Camden
13/6/2010	The 50 s American Diner	Swadlincote
19/6/2010	Dives-Sur-Mer	France
27/6/2010	Come Down And Meet The Folks	London

July/August/September

Date	Venue	City
3/7/2010	Boomswinger Bluegrass Club	Cardiff
20/7/2010	Dartford Folk Club	Dartford
24/7/2010	Summertyne Americana Festival	The Sage, Gateshead
12/8/2010	Supporting Gene Watson	St Helens
15/8/2010	Supporting Gene Watson	Newark
4/9/2010	Picnic Festival	Namur, Belgium
25/9/2010	Leander Bluegrass Festival	Austin, TX
1/10/2010	Guthrie Bluegrass Festival	Guthrie, OK

