FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Tall Tales and Even Taller Drummer – Local Musician to Perform with Canadian Roots and Ragtime Band “My Sweet Patootie” in Brixham.

OWEN SOUND, ONTARIO – May 1, 2017 - My Sweet Patootie, featuring Canadian Folk Music Award winners Sandra Swannell and Terry Young along with Brixham, Devon percussionist John Jackson, will perform their uplifting vaudeville-style show at the Brixham Theatre on Thursday June 8th at 7:30 pm.

How did a band from Canada find a drummer from Brixham? “We met online,” laughed the group’s fiddle player / vocalist Swannell. “It was like an online dating service...but for musicians.”

At 6’5 percussionist John Jackson towers above his Canadian band mates, who take great delight in grandly introducing him to audiences as “The World’s Tallest Patootie”. Musically however, Jackson fills a much taller order.

When My Sweet Patootie’s Canadian percussionist Paul Clifford and his wife announced the arrival their new baby in 2016, the band began their search to find someone to replace him on their UK tours. “We needed to find someone with serious brush skills and a flair for performance. We knew John had the chops in the first 4 bars of his video audition,” said the group’s guitarist / vocalist Young.
Armed with their trademark tight vocal harmonies, bass-driven finger style guitar, swing fiddle and ricky-tick percussion, My Sweet Patootie makes an astoundingly large sound on stage.

The group's folk-roots, country blues and vintage jazz sound is heavily influenced by the likes of Chet Atkins, Stéphane Grappelli, and the Andrews Sisters. Throw in the group's penchant for a fierce fiddle tune, lighthearted satire and their love of artists like Patsy Cline, and you get a sound that has My Sweet Patootie compared to American groups like Dan Hicks & His Hot-Licks and The Squirrel Nut Zippers.

The band's name "My Sweet Patootie" is a slang term of endearment which became popular in North America the 1920s meaning a "hot dame" or a "sassy sweetheart". The name was chosen to capture the vintage flavour of the band’s music as well as the satirical edge in much of their song writing. Several ragtime titles from the jazz-age use the expression, but most significantly for Young and Swannell was "Sweet Patootie Blues" (1928) by Arthur "Blind" Blake, who was well known for his complex and intricate finger picking, much like Young’s own guitar style.

In a recent live performance review, Aaron Stewart of *Keeps Me Alive Forum* said My Sweet Patootie embraces “the fun that makes music one of the greatest forces in our lives, even interspersing ‘Flight of the Bumblebee’ or ‘Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy’ into their own tunes. What impressed me most was just watching them happily lose themselves in the music, then letting the audience in on their many lyrical gags with a sly wink and a grin that lets you feel an equal part of the whole thing. If you get a chance to see this group perform, climb over every obstacle in your way and be there. This is a show you don't want to miss.”

Tickets are available from the Brixham Theatre Box Office 01803 882717, [www.brixhamtheatre.org.uk](http://www.brixhamtheatre.org.uk), www.wegottickets, or from BATS volunteer agencies at Day Lewis Pharmacy, Fore Street, Millie & Me, King Street, and Northfield News, Pillar Avenue, Brixham or Galleon Stores, Galmpton or Torbay Bookshop, Paignton. You can find out more about MSP at [www.mysweetpatootie.com](http://www.mysweetpatootie.com).

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