

Christine Sparks



Christine is a composer, multi-instrumental musician, theatre maker, visual artist and workshop/leadership presenter. In her spare time, Christine co-manages a portfolio of community rental properties in Glasgow.

"My name is Christine Sparks, and I am an artist."

It still surprises me how much resistance there is in my body when I say these words, but they are true. For as long as I can remember, I have been fascinated by the feelings that arise during the creative process and the many ways that those feelings might find form. I am singer, songwriter, speaker, painter, performer – every day discovering new ways to express my experience of this one, precious life - and in doing so perhaps speaking to

something greater than myself. This commitment to artistry is both a constant practise and a gift. It is also how I find the freedom to shine in a world so hungry for connection and magic. Most of all, I strive for truth – my authentic voice through song, colour, word. The voice that tells me "I am an Artist."

Training

1974 – 1982	Trained in classical piano and cello. Studied art and photography at school. Self-taught guitar and various folk instruments.
1983 - 1994	Cabaret duo Sisters , performing at Scottish venues, and folk Duo Allandubh , touring Scotland with original and traditional acoustic material, was Christine's training as a professional singer and performer
Continuing Training 2016/2017/2018/2019	Discipline of Freedom Workshops in France with facilitator and mentor, Paul Oertel
April 2017 – Dec 2018	Completed the Authentic Artists Pathmakers programme in facilitation and mentorship skills with leader and mentor Kath Burlinson

MUSIC

"Find out who you are and do it on purpose" Dolly Parton

2019	Released "The Woman" – an album of songs written by Tom Fairnie
2016/18	Focus on writing and theatre

- 2015 Performed at Hogmanay Live at STV studios with Soul Nation Choir
- House Concert Tour
- 2014 Released "**Robin – Songs of Robert Burns, vol1**" - album
- Performed with Soul Nation Choir supporting Deacon Blue at Linlithgow Palace
- 2012/13 Focus on writing and family
- 2011 Headlined at the O2 in Glasgow with my 15-piece band, supported by The Christians
- Released "**Songs from a Scottish Heart**" - album at Edinburgh Festival (testimonials)
- 2009 Won the Erin Parker award for best performance of an original song
- 1994 Released first solo album of original material, **Furious Eyes**, which was toured round the UK and Europe.
- Won Raw '95 with my band Redwood – a competition to find the best unsigned band in Scotland, culminating in a performance at the SECC, Glasgow
- Recorded "**Release The Peace**" for BBC Radio 1 Armistice Daycharity single for the Simona Trust, Romania

VISUAL ART

"Art is a wound that turns to light ... from suffering often comes great beauty" - George Braque



2020 - *"During the Covid pandemic of 2020, there has undoubtedly been an excess of suffering – physically, emotionally, and spiritually – on a Global scale. From day one of lockdown, I committed to producing a piece of visual art every day, and sharing the images online, through my Facebook page, Hibernation Creations."* Christine Sparks

THEATRE

"I have more trees to climb" - Ben Moore

- 2021 One woman show, "**Love Yourself Wildly**", at the Edinburgh International Fringe and "**The Woman**" theatre tour
- 2020 Composer "**Our Body of Grief**" an Authentic Artists Collective Production
- Writer/Performer **The Sensational Christine Sparks Show** with partner John, entertaining audiences across the UK since 2009 with a mix of original material, comedy, and covers with a twist
- 2017 Musical director/composer/live underscoring for "**Invisible Lines**", a theatre piece devised and performed by theatre maker and director Kath Burlinson. Edinburgh and London. Filmed 2020, Due Ed Fringe 2021
- 2010 Devised and performed "**Songs from a Scottish Heart**" at the Edinburgh Festival
"Unmissable!" The Scotsman
- 2005 Musical Director and performer with "The She" – vocal harmony group performing at Corporate/Charity events
- 1990-93 Performed and toured large venues and theatres with showband "Lets Go Crazy"

FACILITATION, TEACHING AND KEYNOTE SPEAKING

- 2020 "**Creativity with Christine**" – a fortnightly online resource for amputee charity Finding Your Feet, encouraging creativity and play during self-isolation
- 2019 Facilitated a singing workshop for International Women's Day
- 2018 & 2019 Keynote speaker at International Woman's Day in The Blytheswood Hotel, Glasgow
- 2017 Co-facilitated "**Utter – an exploration in sound, body, and song**" with Dr Claire Macauley at Glasgow Women's Library (until 2019)
- Assistant on Authentic Artists Workshop with Kath Burlinson (and 2016)

- 2015 Co-presented "Sparks and Burns" radio show at Celtic Music Radio, showcasing up and coming Scottish Artists (until 2017)
- 1992 Voluntary vocal coach and drama teacher at Highholm Primary School, Port Glasgow and Barsail Primary School, Erskine (until 1994)