

## Mass media folk music

From 'The British Folk Revival, 1944-2002'

In any case, interest in folk music was fuelled by mass media broadcasting. Julie Felix, Jake Thackray, and Robin Hall and Jimmy McGregor were all regulars on television (so too, the ubiquitous and highly influential group the Seekers). There was a wide-ranging assortment of British folk artists such as Donovan, David McWilliams, **Friday Brown**, the Leesiders and the Settlers making regular appearances on **TV** and radio. Bruce Woodley of the Seekers co-wrote songs with Paul Simon, who also sang on the religious *Five to Ten* slot on BBC Radio in March 1965, introduced by Judith Piepe. In doing so, Simon opened the door for other contemporary singer/songwriters.

In fact, one might argue that in the years before the advent of Radio 1 in 1967, the populist appreciation of contemporary folk song emanating from the broadcasting 'establishment' of the BBC, the kind of 'middle of the road' form of folk singers such as the aforementioned **Friday Brown** (who appeared regularly with Max Jaffa on the Light Programme) and the Settlers, effected a greater appreciation of folk music than any revivalist connected to the MacColl/Lloyd axis. The radio listener was able to hear the likes of Jake Thackray establish himself as a troubadour in the wake of what Piepe was to describe as the 'folk poets'. This acquaintance involved daily household procedures such as hoovering rather than attending a folk club!