

Two Coats Colder is an acoustic / folk band. The original members, Ray Taylor and Anna Bass, began playing together as a duo under the name Samphire in 2009. In 2010 they changed their name to Two Coats Colder – a picturesque expression Ray remembered from a conversation with a North Norfolk “local” when discussing the winter weather on the Norfolk coast.

They quickly established a characteristic sound, using contrasting six- and 12-string guitars, trading lead vocals, and adding harmonies in distinctive arrangements. At first their repertoire consisted of traditional and contemporary folk covers, but gradually Ray’s original compositions began to work their way into the set. They made two EPs – “All Inside” early in 2011 and “Ice Cream Harbour” later that year.

In 2012 Chris Bullen, who – with Ray – was a member of the Marina Florance Band, joined Two Coats Colder as bass player. Several years before, Chris and Anna had been fellow-members of the Flying Figs, a four- (and occasionally five-)piece folk ensemble which performed live on several occasions but never made a recording. Ray and Anna began to write songs together, and the trio performed them regularly at acoustic and folk clubs around south and central England.

Later in 2012 David Baird, a longtime friend and accomplice of John Martyn, became the band’s fourth member, contributing mandolin and vocals. With the arrival of the mandolin, Anna’s 12-string guitar became less important and the Indian Harmonium took its place, adding one more layer to the band’s unique sound.

2012 also saw the release, late in the year, of Two Coats Colder’s third EP, “Quadrants” – the first to feature the four-piece lineup.

In 2013 and 2014 the band built on their reputation as entertaining and varied performers, appearing at several festivals, folk clubs, house concerts and other functions, and continuing to add new songs to the set. 2015 sees the release of their first full-length album, *Unseen Highway*, featuring 10 original songs and two covers.