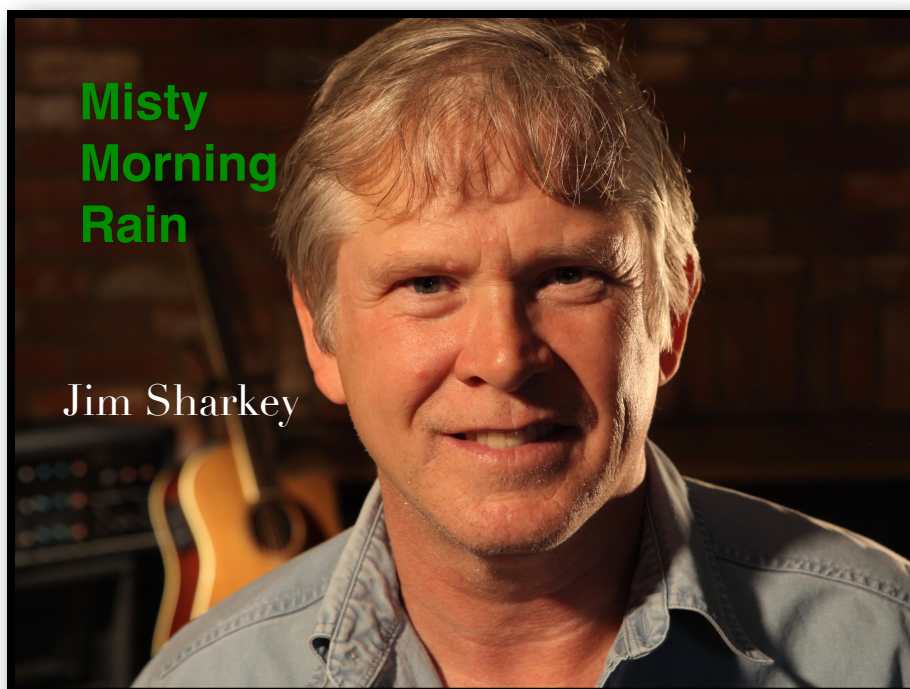


Jim Sharkey New Release: *"Misty Morning Rain"*

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Singer-songwriter Jim Sharkey is an Irish and Americana folk musician. Jim grew up in County Roscommon, Ireland, and came to the US in 1982 when he joined the US Navy in London, England. He spent five years as a photographer on the USS Dixon in San Diego, California, and ten years working in television and video production in North Carolina and Maine. Later he taught children with special needs but decided to pursue music full-time in 2014. He tours Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Maryland, and Washington DC, accompanying himself on guitar, harmonica, and bodhran (Irish drum). Jim's original songs blend Irish traditional ballad influences with contemporary issues that are often set in the area he resides. The title track of his second CD **"Sweet Anne's Road"** deals with the effects of the war in Afghanistan on a young couple from the rural area of Copper Hill, Virginia. "The Campaign Song" also included on that CD was written after Neil Young asked Donald Trump to stop using his song "Rockin' in the Free World" for Trump's campaign. **"Misty Morning Rain"** has twelve original songs written in 2016/17. Among them are *"The Plight of the Yazidis"*. A song that was written to raise awareness of the Yazidi people of Northern Iraq who were mercilessly hunted down by Isis in 2014; many Yazidi women remain in sexual slavery today. *"Hot Chocolate"* speaks to our need as a society to see the good in each of us. *"The Bar on the Square"* celebrates a local pub in Jim's hometown of Ballaghaderreen, County Roscommon, which has become the go to place for life's events over the years. Other songs deal with topics as diverse as the mood of the country in early 2017 seen through one person's eyes (*Nothing in Particular*) to keeping a loved one's memory alive (*Misty Morning Rain*).



"Sharkey's compositions are much like the voice with which he sings them: gentle, often introspective, a little melancholy, and attuned to the quieter, slower-paced rhythms of small-town life. He extols the virtues of seeking comfort and fellowship, away from the madding crowd and other sources of tension" **Sean Smith, Boston Irish Reporter, Dec 2017**

"The main theme to this collection is friendships Easy to listen to and telling diverse tales, Misty Morning Rain offers songs ranging on topics such as friendships and immigrants to politics. The playing is lovely and seemingly a bit richer with the instrumentation this go round. This is an easy listen, with lovely arrangements and engrossing lyrics. We recommend you acquaint yourself with Jim and his music." - **Steve Behrens, The Celtic Music Journal**

"Jim's beautiful voice and storytelling will be long remembered by anyone that has the privilege of hearing him play." **Lisal Kayati Roberts, Owner, Bella La Vita, Floyd, VA**

"Jim has played at Nana's Irish Pub in Virginia many times. He's fantastic. So talented." **Tara Coughlan, Manager, Nana's, Middletown, Virginia**

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