

Jim Sharkey Bio

Jim Sharkey is an Irish and Americana folk musician and songwriter. Jim grew up in County Roscommon, Ireland, and came to the United States 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 spend more time playing and writing music in 2014. He lives in Salisbury, North Carolina and plays around the Carolinas, Georgia, Virginia, Maryland, and Washington DC, accompanying himself on guitar, harmonica, and sometimes bodhran. Jim's original songs blend Irish traditional ballad influences with contemporary issues that are often set in the area he resides. He has recorded one CD of Irish favorites and three CDs of original music: *Sweet Anne's Road*, *Misty Morning Rain*, and his newest release, *A Lovely Day*.

Featured on *A Lovely Day* are notables in the Irish scene, such as Derek Hickey on button accordion; Colin Farrell playing fiddle and whistles; Colin's brother Shane on banjo and mandolin; Alan Murray on bouzouki and guitar; Nuala Kennedy, vocals; Will MacMorran on accordion; Cillian Vallely on pipes; Anna Colliton on bodhran; as well as North Carolina musicians: Luke Boudreault on trumpet; Destiny Stone on piano; and Kelly Siske-Dunworth, vocals.

The Boston Irish Reporter has this to say about Jim Sharkey and his music: "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"

"The main theme to this collection is friendships," says The Celtic Music Journal. "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."

Jim's new release, *A Lovely Day*, made up of fourteen original songs and one new Colin Farrell tune called The Manchester Reel. The songs are diverse but all are rooted in the Irish traditional heritage Jim grew up with in Ireland. The album was mixed and mastered by Dave Fason at Windfall Studios in Floyd, Virginia, where Jim's other two albums were produced.

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