

Jim Sharkey



Singer-songwriter Jim Sharkey 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. Jim's original songs blend Irish traditional ballad influences with contemporary issues that are often set in the area he resides. The fourteen original songs on "A Lovely Day" are diverse but all are rooted in the Irish traditional heritage Jim grew up with in Ireland. "The Old Piano" is the story of an Irish immigrant music teacher who finds herself fleeing the Oklahoma Dust Bowl in 1935. She ends up in California and continues to teach children familiar songs and songs from her past such as "Skibbereen" and "The Homes of Donegal". "Mother Jones" recounts the story of Cork-born Mary Harris who grew into the labor leader known as Mother Jones. "The Beautiful Game" is a more contemporary song about the Women's World Cup of 2019. It features **Derek Hickey** on button accordion who provides a French cafe feel to the song. The musicians on the album are top class with **Colin Farrell** producing and playing fiddle and whistles. His brother **Shane** provides banjo and mandolin; **Alan Murray** is brilliant as ever on bouzouki and guitar; **Nuala Kennedy** sings subtle and beautiful harmony on three songs; **Will MacMorran** plays accordion on several tracks, **Cillian Vallely** plays pipes on two tracks and **Anna Colliton** plays bodhran on two. Local North Carolina musicians **Luke Boudreault**, trumpet; **Destiny Stone**, piano; and **Kelly Siske-Dunworth**, vocals; round out the talent featured on this, Jim Sharkey's fourth, album.

New Album Release: "A LOVELY DAY"



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14 Original Songs

1. The Old Piano
2. A Lovely Day
3. Just Try It
4. My Home in Roscommon
5. Mother Jones
6. State It Has Me In/The Manchester Reel
7. Father of the Bride
8. The Champion
9. Beautiful Game
10. The Highwayman
11. I'll Take Care of You
12. Delia
13. Christmas Comet
14. I Have to be Someplace

"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**

Easy to listen to and telling diverse tales, ("Misty Morning Rain" 2017 release) 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, Celtic Music Journal 2017**

"Jim's beautiful voice and storytelling will be long remembered by anyone that has the privilege of hearing him play. **Lisal Kayati Roberts, Floyd, Virginia 2018**

"Jim's music is captivating and reflective, drawn from a deep reserve of life experience. It is clear in the way he embodies the words of the folk songs he sings, bringing timeless lyrics to life in a relevant way. He is beyond professional and a pleasure to work with. A fantastic voice with guitar playing to match. If you enjoy Folk and Americana music and have the opportunity to hear him, don't miss it!" - **Christopher Vogado, Gastonia, NC**

*I have seen Jim multiple times and am always wowed by his performance. He has an amazing Irish tenor voice and is a fantastic musician and songwriter. His genuinely warm personality becomes immediately evident when he begins his performance. I would see Jim anytime he is near - **Nina Burke, Virginia 2019***