

JEZ LOWE



PRESS RELEASE 2014:

With last year's release of the compilation CD entitled "HEADS UP – 18 Essential Jez Lowe Songs", the acoustic/folk world was suddenly somewhat jolted into realising that this North East of England-based singer-songwriter is rapidly gaining ground as the most "covered" songwriter on the UK circuit. Over the last couple of decades, the likes of Fairport Convention, The Dubliners, The Unthanks, Wizz Jones, The McCalmans, Mary Black, The Duhks, Bob Fox, The Young Un's, Enda Kenny, Cherish The Ladies, Tom McConville, The Clancys and scores more, have queued up to adopt his songs for their own repertoires. No wonder no less than Richard Thompson has called him "The best singer songwriter to come out of the UK for a long time", and personally invited him to play at Thompson's Meltdown Festival at London's South Bank Centre in 2010. Jez Lowe's contributions to the on-going BBC series The Radio Ballads has cemented this reputation, with a Sony Radio Award among the many accolades coming its way.

2014 will see the release of a new solo album, his first for four years, entitled THE BALLAD BEYOND, containing FIFTEEN new tracks, half of which are Radio Ballads songs recorded by their composer for the first time, along with other songs that he has added to his concert repertoire in the intervening period.

But the bulk of Jez's time is spent "on the road". He's long been one of the UK's busiest folk troubadours, playing for audiences the world over, either solo, (with guitar, cittern and harmonica accompaniment), or with his band The Bad Pennies. In the last twelve months he has toured all over the UK, and in Canada, the USA and New Zealand. A highlight of next year's schedule will be the Men At Words tour of North America, which will see Jez joining forces with James Keelaghan and Archie Fisher for a joint tour throughout April.

As BBC Radio DJ Mike Harding said recently, "No-one else writes or sounds like Jez Lowe", and chances are, even if you've never heard the man himself, you'll have heard his songs, sung at festivals, club-gigs, open-mikes or on CD, by the great and good, the professional and the enthusiast, the young and not-so-young. What higher accolade could a songwriter hope for?

'Jez Lowe is one of our finest songwriters.' **BBC Radio 2**

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Jez Lowe is sponsored by Elixir Strings, Headway Electronics and Gideon Weigart Guitars



Album reviews:

"One of the folkscene's great unsung heroes... His best album for some time." **MIKE HARDING, BBC RADIO 2**

"A profoundly impressive new album. Lowe has earned the right to be counted among England's finest contemporary songwriters." **DAILY TELEGRAPH, UK**

"An affirmation, and a development! Quintessential Jez!" **FROOTS, UK**

"Another impressive collection from this very talented songwriter." **FOLKING.COM**

"You can't go wrong with this lovely album." **PENGUIN EGGS, CANADA**

Live reviews:

"One of the hottest acts around" **DAILY TELEGRAPH**

"Definitely a highlight of the year" **NET RHYTHM**

'Some of the greatest contemporary English folk songs since early Richard Thompson are coming from the pen of Jez Lowe' **BOSTON GLOBE**

'An excellent matching of old and new' **Q MAGAZINE**

'the best songwriter to come out of England in a long time' **RICHARD THOMPSON**

'the work of a songwriter at the top of his game' **IRISH WORLD**

'first rate musicians combine to produce the special moments that are difficult to define but easy to experience' **THE LIVING TRADITION**

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