

What are the inspirations for your lyrics and music? It's a real diverse mixture of things. It can be a person, other artists or old music. Some things just rise up and smack you in the face and rattle round your brain. You can't rely on anything and you also can't count things out.

What is the most challenging work as far as creating a song? Writing the music, the lyrics, getting it produced? Getting it produced right is a problem for every artist, finding your right sound is really hard too. For me if the context or wording of the lyrics aren't right then it doesn't see the light of day again until it's right. It's all challenging and testing but that's the beauty in it.

What comes first the music or the lyrics? It depends really. I go through stages of diversity. I do like writing everything in one fowl sweep but sometimes you need to sit on some things for a few days. I write lyrics down in my book too, so sometimes there used, just little thoughts. It can create a diversity in a song that's needed.

Your music essentially has folk, acoustic roots. Are there other genres of music that you are interested in exploring? Yes I love a lot of old jazz and blue stuff. I listen to The Band and other country music like Emmy Lou Harris and the Stanley Brothers too. I'm looking forward at some point to playing with a band so I can really go for it and play some electric guitar. Something like The Bands, Music from the Big Pink album is a sound I crave for at some point for myself.

Who are the artists who have influenced you the most? There are so many. I'm quite fanatical about some people and when I fell in love with their music I didn't listen to anything but them for months, like Elliott Smith and Buckley. I always go back to Bob Dylan and my head always has a song of his like at the moment I'm living with "Spanish Harlem Incident." The Blues got me into playing and is the basis of all I do and what everybody else does too. The Beatles are the greatest band ever.

A lot of Irish music and country stuff too, it's too hard to lay down.

What is your musical background and how did you come to be a musician? I grew up in a musical house and the bug just bit me. I don't really question why I have this eternal strive to write a song it's just all I want and need. I taught myself the guitar and was late to singing but I love them both.

Tell us about your music and CDs, what is your favorite song you've written? That's hard. It changes every day. I just wrote a song called "My Darling Bell" and it's cool. I like "Two Years Old" because that's new. I think "The Bounty of Mary Jane" is cool but come tomorrow I will be glad to be rid of it. You always want a better song.

What is your favorite band/musician right now? Well I like a lot of stuff. Leonard Cohen is playing from my cd player at the moment. Not a lot of stuff stands up to him. I really love Arcade Fire, but it's a real eclectic mix of old and new. Martha Wainwright. It's not really my normal thing but Flipron (www.myspace.com/flipron) an English band played a great show the other night in London. Lowell Fulson an old blues guy. Woody Guthrie. The Blue Album by Weezer.

Recently you started playing shows in the States. Is it different from when you play in the UK? Are the fans different? How has the overall experience been? America was a great experience and was too

hard to digest and segregate from a dream sequence. I just wanna play and to do that in New York and Nashville is really cool. People in America are really friendly and I met a lot of good people.