

Martyn Joseph

*lyrical narrative; contemporary protests
against injustice, inhumanity*



“A depth, resonance, and emotional punch, which belies comparison.”
— *Q Magazine*

“Joseph proves that the path to integrity is a celebration not a chore.
An artist of enduring worth.”
— *MoJo*

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Martyn Joseph is a performer like no other. Shades of **Springsteen**, **Knopfler** and **Dave Matthews** there may be - but he stands in his own right, built on a reputation for giving what thousands have described as the best live music experience of their lives.

One of acoustic music's most arresting artists, the Welsh singer songwriter has been in demand on both sides of the Atlantic for over two decades. **Martyn's** 25 year career has embraced some notable achievements including 5 Top 50 UK chart positions, with such songs as “Dolphins Make Me Cry,” “Working Mother” and “Let's Talk About it in the Morning,” and appearances and tours with, amongst others, **Suzanne Vega**, **Marc Cohn**, **Joan Armatrading**, **Runrig**, **Clannad**, **Chris de Burgh**, **Art Garfunkel**, **Jools Holland** and even **Celine Dion** and **Shirley Bassey**. He has won fans everywhere with his uncanny fusion of material –feisty, pull no punches big issue numbers alongside stripped bare love songs.

Martyn's particular strength is in the lyrical narrative of his songs, be they contemporary protests against injustice and inhumanity, a musical psalm to the fulfilment and fragilities of love, or a piercing précis of social history, “It's the song that can soothe, explain or even in a small way save us.” In this manner he carries on in the tradition of the six string balladeer as both catalyst and interpreter of our raddled and rewarding times, our personal and communal stories sung out loud in the spirit of **Woody Guthrie**, **Ewan MacColl**, **Hank Williams** and **Bruce Springsteen**.

Voted Best Male Artist at the 2004 BBC Welsh Music Awards and with a string of humanitarian plaudits and awards, he's a mean guitar player with one of the most powerful voices on the circuit crafting songs with, as the BBC's **Bob Harris** put it, “outstanding lyrical intelligence.”

Across a 25-year career, and having released his 29th album *Vegas* in September 2007, **Martyn's** song catalogue is an awesomely impressive archive of our times, our tribulations, our wonder and our wounds. One reviewer after seeing **Martyn** in concert likened the experience and content to “the beautiful business of being alive with all its jokes, absurdity and sadness, seared by music for the heart and head.”

Always charming, sometimes alarming, **Martyn Joseph** is a unique songwriter who digs deep and delivers an ultimate, life affirming message. One of the most unusual and compelling performers you are likely to encounter.



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