



*"A singer-songwriter in the troubadour tradition  
...songs with deep humanity at their heart"*

**Net Rhythms**

*"Very beautiful music. I can  
thoroughly recommend this"*

**Bob Harris, BBC Radio 2**

# GARETH DAVIES-JONES

## BIOGRAPHY

### A SEASONED PROFESSIONAL

With 15 years of hard graft and experience as a professional musician, writing, recording and playing his way around the UK & Ireland, Gareth Davies-Jones is most certainly one of the best kept roots/acoustic secrets on the British music scene - an artist who has served his apprenticeship well and gathered a discerning following.

*"one of the UK's best-kept musical secrets, powerful songs and affecting performances"* **Properganda**

Held in high regard by many commentators as a gifted and perceptive songwriter (BBC Radio's Bob Harris, Iain Anderson & Frank Hennessy are all fans), his music is laced with a vivid and powerful sense of the aesthetic, forged amongst the landscapes and atmosphere of his native Ulster and adopted home in Northumberland. A natural story teller through song, many reviewers have placed Gareth's performances alongside the best in the Troubadour tradition. Combining elements of Guthrie, Dylan, Taylor and Browne, the attention to musical detail is evident throughout his extensive back catalogue (9 solo & 3 collaborative albums) playing a variety of instruments and featuring a keen sense of melody woven around a rich, distinctive voice.

*"Rich, soulful vocals, a fine ear for melody & masterful acoustic guitar playing"* **R2 Magazine**

### SONGWRITER

After winning a Sony Radio Award for best podcast with writer and producer Mary Colwell in 2009, working with the Farne music archive at Sage Gateshead for 'North By East' in 2011, and receiving commissions from highly regarded organisations such as Traidcraft and The People's Kitchen, Gareth's songwriting ability has been more recently showcased during a prestigious song-writing residency with The Mining Institute in Newcastle Upon Tyne during 2014/15. Working with Arts Council England, 'The Seam' project resulted in a new album of 11 original songs and a critically acclaimed North East tour telling stories from the Institute's world renowned archive covering the history of mining engineering and the industrial revolution. In Spring 2017 Gareth was commissioned to work with students at Emmanuel College Gateshead on the Together At Watergate Project - writing songs about the past, present and future of the school. He rounded off 2017 working with The Auckland Trust in Bishop Auckland helping a variety of local community groups to respond to the opening of the new Mining Art Gallery through original song.

*"The Seam...instantly memorable melodies & superb musical accompaniment. Gareth's voice is faultless throughout...  
Essential listening."* **FATEA**

*"The Seam is not only an innovative and entertaining approach showcasing a unique collection, it's also a fitting tribute to the history of mining and mining communities which speaks to our times."* **The Morning Star**

## **Performer**

Raised on the shores of Belfast Lough in County Down and now living in the Tyne Valley west of Newcastle Upon Tyne in North East England (Hadrian's Wall Country) Gareth has been writing, singing and playing his own songs since his mid-teens. After studying at Newcastle University and cutting his musical teeth busking, playing in local bands and working through his twenties, he turned professional in 2004 and set off on a solo singer-songwriter career which has been gaining momentum ever since. Across that time his music has been featured on BBC Television, national and local radio, and used in a variety of settings - from helping WW2 Arctic Convoy veterans receive the recognition of the UK Government, to the ongoing campaign for international Trade Justice. The broad variety of the subject matter addressed in his songs continues to captivate and engage audiences at live shows up and down the country - odes to iconic Lighthouses, tales of maritime daring and tragedy, tributes to tunnellers in WW1, the landscape of Northumberland's National Park, songs of hope, love and longing.... and everything in between. Over the years Gareth has collaborated with various artists (Megson, Jez Lowe, Lander-mason, Yvonne Lyon, Calum Stewart, Rob Halligan) and appeared with many more (Phil Beer, Waterson Carthy, Spiers & Boden, Karine Polwart, Paul Field and Andy Flannagan to name a few).

## **What's Next....**

Gareth released his eighth full solo album "The Beauty & The Trouble" in July 2017 and followed up with his second Christmas album release "The Darkest Midnight in December" in December 2018. Alongside touring throughout the year he has also been working on a song-writing project with the NHS and working with local community groups on small heritage music projects in the North East of England. In 2016 he worked with Yvonne and David Lyon on a new album of co-written songs inspired by The Sermon on The Mount called "The Space Between". He continues to tour this project from time to time and shows featuring songs from The Seam and previous collections.

*"Some artists often sing in the name of one cause or another without conviction, but that is not the case here. The legacy of well-written, descriptive music laid down by Woody Guthrie, still lives on here in the UK"* **Maverick Magazine (5 Stars)**

"..intelligent songs which make a point gently and invoke sympathy.....someone to be taken seriously" **fROOTS**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, BOOKINGS & COMMISSIONS...**

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