

Jim Ocean Biography



Jim Ocean was born in Stuttgart, Germany in 1952—an occupation brat taken to the wilds of Bismarck, North Dakota by a small-town air force father and a beautiful German mother. The restless family landed in Colorado and Oklahoma (where Jim developed a fascination with tornados and guitar) before settling down in time for Northern California’s ‘Summer of Love’. Jim began gigging around the Sonoma folk scene, appearing with Kate Wolf in his first concert during the mid 1970’s.

Through a series of misadventures, Jim spent a year living, steeping, and performing in the East Coast’s prolific acoustic music scene. After saving enough gas money, Jim returned to the Bay Area and established an on-going music scene hosting original and traditional music that has been running in Contra Costa County and beyond for 29 years. Jim’s mission in life as an impresario and cultural activist is to produce seldom heard, widely eclectic music, and to create musical traditions

that people can count on year after year. Jim’s latest passion is to combine event production with environmental education. More on that as it develops, so stay tuned... Check out the concert scene at www.CommunityConcerts.com.

As a songwriter and performer Jim founded the darkly satirical group Celtic Elvis. The band was discovered by Christine Lavin and subsequently released 3 recordings and toured the continent for over 10 years. Jim briefly formed another group named ‘The Dogmatics’ that produced a CD called ‘Fear and Love’, which was recorded in Nashville with the house band for the Grand ‘Ol Opry. Some comments from that project: “A breath of fresh air, both challenging and pleasing, with great songs, performances and super production value.”

Jim has recently completed his first solo project, Pop Tunes for Mystics to be released on Wildplum Records in January 2010. It’s a new compilation of original material—mostly on the serious side this time, with lyrics that explore the depths of the human experience. Full of thought-provoking material, beautiful & haunting melodies and a provocative, refreshing mix of instrumentation, his new project is a multi-layered gourmet feast for the ears and soul. “A secular ride through spiritual terrain.”

Jim lives in Guerneville, CA with his wife, two cats and a hamster-dog, where in addition to drinking in the sea air and the mystery of the redwood forest, they operate a small vacation rental business. More information on that at www.riverseagetaways.com

www.JimOceanMusic.com