

A Note to Snake – Reflections on a year of livestreamed shows

With the invaluable help of Sally, Joe and musical friends, you have kept us all sane and entertained over 12 long months. This is a brief summary of 122 livestreamed shows (or, more accurately, 121 shows, as one of them seems to have disappeared into the æther). Thanks go to Mike for his sterling effort on collating the vast bulk of the dataset.

Over the course of the year, you have performed 323 different tunes. In total, they have been played 979 times, at an average of 8 per show. The greatest number of pieces in any one show was 15 (on 28 December).

The prizes for the most-played tunes go to:

- First Place = Do I Love You? (with 25 plays)
- Second place = At Dawn (with 13 plays)
- Joint third place = Funky Shoes, Funky Flute; Hèan; How Sweet It Is; Lagrimas Negras; My Girl; and Respect (with 9 plays each)

Conversely, 117 pieces have made only one appearance (and there are some stonkers among them that deserve to be heard again).

In all, you have played 18 different instruments on the shows, either live or on pre-recorded video, accompanying yourself. (I'm counting all Whistles as one, because I'm not clever enough to identify them individually!).

The clear winner, with 513 outings, has been the Tenor Sax, with the Soprano Sax and Alto Sax following some way behind, with 117 and 112 appearances, respectively. Various Flutes have appeared 90 times and the Shakuhachi 62.

At the other end of the leader board, the Sopranino Sax came out 3 times, the Shinobue twice and the Clarinet just once. The Oboe tried to sneak in too, but only managed a mention, courtesy of Gabriel.

17 of your wonderful and talented musical guests have appeared, either live or on pre-recorded video, including the reliable and remarkably inexpensive tuner, Fakey (in multiple guises!). Many, many more have contributed their time and skills to provide backing tracks for us to enjoy.

You have helped us through those long days, greeting us **At Dawn** with the **Morning Birdies** and a **Morning Sunflower**, making sure we've **Got Sunshine** and **Sunbeams** to make a **Perfect Day**, and showing us a **Shiro Sunset** before **Twisting the Night Away** until **Round Midnight** and ending our day with a **Moonlight Serenade**.

From the comfort of our own homes we have **Hit The Road Jack** - that's **The Road to Flodigarry**, of course – before hitching a ride on the **Night Train** to **Tuxedo Junction**.

To sustain us on our journey, where better for fruity snacks than a visit to **Blueberry Hill** and the **Watermelon Man**. They'll go nicely with the **Bananas** and **Green Onions**, but **Forget The Porridge**.

The weather hasn't always been great. The occasional **Cloud Cover** has us thinking "**Here's That Rainy Day**" and, sure enough, down it came. **Gentle Rain** at first, then turning **Purple**, before a dusting of **Spring Snow**.

But in the **Northern Sky** we've seen **Dragonfly** and **Gypsy Moth**, a passing **Albatross** and, even more exotic, a **Flamingo**.

Sometimes it's been hard on the feet. Whether **I'm Walkin'**, **Skippin'** or **Stepping Out**, my **Funky Shoes** have avoided the need for **Barefootin'**. Some **Foot Pattin'** has been necessary, however, especially after **Dancing in the Street**... that's **Baker Street**, of course.

We've seen much of the emerald isle, courtesy of the **Women Of Ireland**. We've taken the **Londonderry Air**, via **Carrickfergus** and dropped in for a **Shannon Pint** en route to **Killarney**.

We've all hopped across the Atlantic, too. That **Tennessee Waltz**, in **Memphis**, was memorable, but I still have **Georgia On My Mind**. We met the **Girl From Ipanima** a few times and then **Between Two Seas**, we went **Fuji Sighting**. We even had time for a **Night In Tunisia** and a stopover in **Spain** before returning to the more familiar **Scarborough Fair** and sampling a **Wakefield Wobble**.

I think we speak for all Zen Denners when we say "*A Heartfelt Thank You*" for a wonderful year of shows. It's been an absolute blast. We might have made it through the year without you, but it would have been a whole lot tougher and a lot less fun.

Here's to all the future shows, however many there may be.

With love and gratitude,
R&A&r
XXx

(PS – Someone else can concoct the prose for the other 272 titles that I haven't mentioned!)