

CLAYDON CONNOR



Claydon Connor's music always tells a story; written from the heart his new album 'Under The Big Sky', self released late 2014 combines all his musical influences. Although eclectic and diverse the album has a continuum in the writing style. It's a perfect blend of Roots Americana with a hint of classic English pop amounting to a sound that is both honest and infectious.

The album shows a real progression in Claydon's writing style. It is personal, but as a listener you'll find yourself instantly connecting with it. "I want people to be able to tap into the record and think 'I know what he's singing about, I've been there, I've felt that way'". Although a year in the making, Under The Big Sky was written in a relatively short space of time, which you can really hear when you listen to the whole album; the songs all belong together, capturing a moment in time. "I love it when you play an album and instantly know where the artist was emotionally at that time, it becomes more intimate. It's been a real journey for me, I've discovered who I am and exactly what I want to sound like... before writing and recording 'Under The Big Sky' I was listening to lots of Neil Young, John Mayer, Fleetwood Mac and Tom Petty, I think you can really hear those influences".

For as long as Claydon has been writing music he has strived to achieve the perfect pop song. Changing his way of thinking for the new album he tells stories of love, loss and new beginnings set against a musical backdrop; you'll easily find yourself transported to another time or place, connecting to the stories being told. The production of 'Under The Big Sky' has purposefully been kept to a minimum. "I wanted to really focus on the songs and the meaning behind them, after all when I write I use only an acoustic guitar and my voice".

An accomplished musician Claydon plays guitar and harmonica which feature throughout; add to that the delights of Hammond organ and pedal steel guitar and the album as a whole will have you toe tapping along to uplifting tempos one minute, and moved by heartfelt soul searching stories the next.

The album opens with 'Just Another Lover', an upbeat country sing-along, with a somewhat bleak outlook on relationships and the idea of love. 'We Could Have It All' and 'The Sweetest Thing' have a real California rock feel while tracks like 'A little Piece Of Heaven' and 'A Love Unknown' borrow

from old school Dylan and Young. 'The Kind Of Man I Am' a country song with classic Americana production values, tells the tale of a guy reflecting on a previous relationship, realising that although the fire has burnt out, the flame still burns. It's about forgiving and being a better person by allowing yourself to say: "It's ok, after all that happened...I still love you". With soaring pedal steel guitar a catchy chorus and a good old country shuffle, 'The Kind Of Man I Am' demonstrates a move on musically for Claydon and sets the scene for the rest of the album.

The album closes with its fitting title track 'Under the Big Sky'; a perfect bookend to the story. "It's about capturing a perfect moment in time, when you're with the person you love, and you never want that moment to come to an end". An uplifting song that makes you smile and re-experience the joy of living life:

" Once in a while when it's good, and you know that it feels right, in your heart like it should, and you're hoping that this day will last forever, we should be together, you and I.... under the big sky" – Under The Big Sky. Following the album release several tracks have been selected for airplay on numerous radio shows such as BBCIntroducing, Amazing radio and CIUT Radio. He was nominated and placed 3rd in the Best of British Unsigned Music Awards 'Best Male' category and has showcased his album with several live performances including the prestigious Bestival.

It's already been an exciting start to 2015 with Claydon playing at the O2 for C2C Country to Country festival, added to the line up for this years Isle of Wight festival and perform live on BBCRadio Solent for the launch of his latest single. He has recently returned from a successful trip to Nashville where he showcased 'Under The Big Sky' along with new material to many of the fabulous venues that 'Music City' has to offer. Claydon has an instant stage presence, engaging his audience from start to finish. His enthusiasm and obvious enjoyment of playing live, coupled with his talent for writing great songs, makes him a powerful act to watch.

Back in 2012 Claydon released the single 'We Could Have It All'; the accompanying video combined quirky animation with live performance. The track was added to the in-store playlist of the popular clothing retailer Fat Face; with over 200 stores across the UK this was a great opportunity that led to regular live performances in Claydon's local Fat Face store in Cowes, Isle of Wight. Shortly after the release of the EP 'Better Man' in Sept 2012, two further tracks 'Better Man' and 'If Its True' were selected by Fat Face and added to their playlist. Fat Face are keen supporters of local talent: "Claydon and his music fit perfectly with our brand and his single ' We Could Have It All' is a fantastic tune which will sound great on our playlist". Claydon has since had further tracks from 'Under The Big Sky' added to the Fat Face playlist, his music can also be heard in Timberland and Costa.

Claydon grew up in Oldham before relocating south to his current home on the Isle of Wight. After discovering a recording of Jimi Hendrix live at Woodstock, Claydon, fully inspired, ditched the football in favour of a guitar. From then on he devoted his time to achieving a professional career in the music industry. He is also well known for both his production skills at Studio 5a, a thriving recording studio of which he is co-founder, and for inspiring the musical talents of others through teaching guitar. However, writing and recording his own music is where his passion lies.

"Claydon Connor is a talented songsmith and wordsmith, Not to be underestimated on the emerging UK country scene and the already-established UK Americana scene, this album will stand him in good stead for years to come." - Vickye Fisher, 'For The Country Record'

'An incredible gentleman who looks the part, absolutely brilliant country sound; every song is an absolute belter, I feel like I've uncovered a gem.' Matt Graveling – Best of British Unsigned