

GARY DUNNE - IRISH SONGWRITER IN LONDON

"...seriously talented..."

LONDON METRO

"One of Ireland's strongest musical exports in years."

INDUBLIN MAGAZINE

"...an eclectic spirit...spiky, longing & joyous...beguiling melodies."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"A brutally honest songwriter and a clutch of deeply personal songs."

IRISH TIMES

I grew up immersed in music. My father played, my mother sang and the whole family home hummed with music of all shapes and sizes.

My first instrument was a Bontempi keyboard. Growing up in the 80s I spent hours (days!) creating poppy synth lines over Casio beats in my bedroom.

At 12, obsessed with Neil Young, The Beatles and Slash, I picked up my father's guitar, a beautiful Yamaha FG-180. This was the beginning of a key relationship in my life.

Through my teens I played in covers bands (but never fitted in) and experimented with writing my own songs. I took part in local 'Battle of The Bands' and obsessively made crunched-up recordings on a Tascam 4-track.

Moving to Dublin at 17, I spent much of the next few years at the wonderful open-mic nights of the time, delighted to be in the same circles as songwriters that I admired.

During these years ('98-2001) I met and played with great writers like Damien Rice, The Guggenheim Grotto, Declan O'Rourke and Damien Dempsey. I also released my first EP, 'Good Things'.

A sense of dissatisfaction and adventure carried me to London in 2002, where I dived straight in to the live circuit. Here, artists like Nizlopi, Duke Special and Jamie Lawson became co-performers and friends. The city's energy suited me - it still does.

Inspired by an opening slot I did for New-Yorker Joseph Arthur, I explored 'live-looping', which is basically the creation of a backing track from sounds that you make live on stage. This fuelled a new writing period and an energised live set.

I returned to the beautiful West of Ireland in 2004 to record my first album, 'Twenty Twenty Fiction'. Going straight in to the top 20 in 2005, it created some new opportunities for me. This all happened on our own family-and-friend-funded independent label.

TWENTY TWENTY FICTION (ALBUM - 2005) *"...tunes strong enough to become mini-epics."*

THE SUNDAY TRIBUNE

"Infectiously beautiful & quite inimitable...not to be missed"

DROWNEDINSOUND

"...lovely and uninterrupted music...a remarkable album."

HOT PRESS

**** THE STAR **** RTE GUIDE**** INDUBLIN

Returning to London in 2005 (with my beautiful girlfriend, now beautiful wife), I spent the next few years playing everywhere from New York to the Edinburgh Fringe, with all kinds of house concerts in-between. Crazy, brilliant times.

My second album, 'Simple Truth', was recorded in London in 2007 and was released the following year. I toured this (briefly) with a band, did the usual press circuit and then decided to take some time out.

SIMPLE TRUTH (ALBUM - 2008)

“Achingly beautiful and irresistible. Twelve songs with something to say about the world we live, and die, in. Now ain’t that something”

HOT PRESS

“A mixture of rocky, upbeat numbers and slower tracks; its heartfelt emotion, choppy beats and melodies catchier than the common cold made an instant connection with me”

THE IRISH WORLD

“...catchy tunes as well as meaningful lyrics, an ideal combination...His eclectic musical taste shines throughout, from funky rhythms straight out of the Stevie Wonder songbook to lyrics that recall musical poets such as Neil Young and Thom Yorke”

STATE MAGAZINE

During the 'time out', I got married, took on inspiring work at The London Irish Centre, became an avid runner and helped other people to make their music. I also kept writing songs. In hindsight, I see the period as a kind of incubation.

In recent months (late 2011) I have started demoing a new album. I was also thrilled to play a sold-out solo show in Camden Town (my first gig in three years), and to try out new material at shows with Nizlopi and Ed Sheeran.

It's now 2012. I'm starting a new album with old friends in East London. The music is coming from the same place in a different way, and I'm thrilled to be riding the waves of creativity. Long may it continue.

Contact me through gary@garydunne.com.