

Calling JC Harris a 'singer-songwriter' would be a bit of an understatement. As a continuation of the progressive rock tradition of the '70's his music features everything from short love songs to grandiose epics. All feature intricate arrangements, virtuoso playing, lyrics rife with literary references and the odd bit of low-brow humour.

You might expect such a complex mix from someone brought up in the west of Ireland by a Jewish grandmother and a Catholic grandfather.

Fans of XTC, Jethro Tull or Sting will find something familiar in his seamless blend of classical, jazz, Irish and electronic elements. A review by Electronic Musician describes his music as "A quirky mix of Steely Dan's irony and Peter Gabriel's world music."

Growing up in Co. Galway, JC learned traditional Irish music on acoustic guitar and feadog stan (tin whistle). After moving to Detroit, Michigan at 16, he picked up the electric guitar and began playing in local bands where Iggy Pop was all the rage. He left for the University of Minnesota to study physics, but was quickly lured away to the music department, leaving behind a full scholarship to pursue his true love.

For JC, it was great fortune to begin seriously studying music in Minneapolis in 1976. At that time, the Twin Cities boasted some of the world's best acts in Punk, Folk, Classical, R&B, Rock, Blues, Irish and Jazz.

The environment was a perfect match for his own wide-ranging interests.

JC embraced the variety he found in the Twin Cities, becoming the youngest member of the Grammy Award-winning Dale Warland Singers and helping to start the influential punk band Husker Dü, recording two records before departing in 1979. He was a member of Garrison Keillor's radio show "A Prairie Home Companion," playing everything from guitar, mandolin, and banjo and ukulele to

bouzouki and autoharp. He also had stints as a sideman with jazz pianist Ramsey Lewis, blues harmonica great Corkey Siegal, and blues legend Son Seals.

In 1980 he began a five-year association with Motown recording acts The Temptations and The Four Tops, playing guitar and bass on several world tours.

In between he taught jazz theory and guitar at Wayne State University in Detroit and then moved to Manhattan, playing various Broadway shows, including Annie, Grease and The Shrine Circus pit band.

In 1986 JC left the music business due to a rare form of arthritis that made the constant rigors of touring impossible.

But after a successful career in software development, JC was lured back to the music world in 2000 and for the first time, began writing and recording his own music.

Recent performance highlights have included a 2004 European tour sponsored by Steinberg (makers of industry leading Cubase recording software) and opening for progressive rock legends Marillion during the band's 2005 European tour. He performs as a solo act, or as part of a four-piece band.

Remarkable, given the virtuosic nature of much of his work, JC plays nearly all instruments; a vast range of gear gathered from all over

the world. He records and mixes in his home studios in Seattle, Washington.

All six of his albums, including his new release, **Beautiful Sounds** (May 2009), are available via Amazon.Com, iTunes or from [jchmusic.com](http://jchmusic.com).

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