

Singer, multi-instrumentalist and serious composer; JC Harris is all these and more. His music runs the gamut from the most intimate love songs to progressive rock ‘epics’. Songs you won’t forget, supported by intricate arrangements, virtuoso playing and passionate, highly literate lyrics (sprinkled with the odd bit of low-brow humor.)

You might expect such a complex mix from someone brought up by the only Jewish grandmother in the West Gaeltacht of Ireland.

Growing up, JC learned traditional Irish music on acoustic guitar and feadóg stan (tin whistle). As a teen he moved to Detroit, Michigan and picked up the electric guitar, playing in local bands where Iggy Pop was all the rage. Eighteen months later, he accepted a scholarship in physics at the University of Minnesota, but eventually moved to music; giving up that scholarship to pursue his true love.

Fortunately for JC, Minneapolis in the seventies was not only a great place to study music, it was also a great place to *play* music— and keep the tuition paid. Back then, the Twin Cities boasted some of the world’s best acts in Punk, Folk, Classical, R&B, Rock, Blues and Irish Tradisiúnta—the perfect environment for his wide-ranging interests.

During that time, JC seemed to be everywhere, playing every kind of music. He was the youngest member of the Grammy Award-winning Dale Warland Singers, recorded with influential punk band Husker Dü and even worked briefly with Garrison Keillor’s “A Prairie Home Companion” radio show, playing everything from guitar and mandolin to banjo and autoharp®.

After school he began touring with just as wide a variety of artists, playing jazz with pianist Ramsey Lewis, calypso with Shangoya, celtic with Dáithí Sproule and blues with Corkey Siegal and Son Seals.

A year later he began a five-year stint with Motown legends The Temptations and The Four Tops, playing both guitar and bass on

“*...a quirky mix of Steely Dan’s irony and Peter Gabriel’s world music. It doesn’t sound dated, though he does sing a bit like Genesis. But gets funky like Level 42 or Sade. At the same time, you hear these complex parts that call to mind old Yes or ELP. Except that his songs are actually about something. And that ‘something’ is usually pretty deep...*



several world tours. During that time he also taught guitar at Wayne State University in Detroit, then moved to Manhattan, playing many Broadway shows including Annie, Grease and The Shrine Circus.

In 1986 JC stopped playing due to a rare form of arthritis that made the constant rigors of touring impossible. He decided, apparently, to ‘settle down’ for a successful career as a software developer.

But everything changed yet again in 2000 when he began recovering enough to record songs written over his many years away. That first CD ‘Positive’ was posted on the young Internet without any thought of live shows, let alone sales. When fans around the country began asking daily where he was playing next, a new career was born—bootstrapped by loyal fans of a new, more song-oriented ‘prog’.

Since then, career highlights have included a 2004 European tour and as opening act for progressive rock legends Marillion in 2005. He performs live as both soloist and leading a four-piece band.

Remarkable given the virtuosic nature of his work, JC plays nearly all the instruments on his records, utilizing a vast range of gear collected from travels all over the world. He composes and mixes in his studio near Seattle.

All seven of his albums, including his newest release, **Positive 2010** (November, 2010), are available at JCHMusic.com, Amazon.Com and iTunes.

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