

# GERRY O'BEIRNE

Irish songwriter, guitarist and singer Gerry O'Beirne was born in Ennis in County Clare and raised in the West of Ireland and in Ghana in West Africa. Gerry is not only a self-taught master of the six and twelve string guitar, he is also a renowned songwriter. His music takes its influences from old and new music and poetry.

Several of his songs have been covered by artists on the Irish music scene. Maura O'Connell recorded *Half Moon Bay* on her album *Stories* as well as *Western Highway*, *Shades of Gloria* and *The Isle of Malachy*. Mary Black recorded *The Holy Ground* and named her CD after it. Cathie Ryan recorded *Shades of Gloria* and *The Lights of San Francisco*.

His first and long awaited solo album *Half Moon Bay* is receiving much deserved critical acclaim, and features his own compelling performances of his songs, as well as his beautiful instrumental music. His songs tell of a yearning for home, romantic love, and the spiritual qualities of place. Gerry has called many places home (Ireland, Africa, England, California, Mexico), but after listening to his music, it is clear that 'home' is anywhere he can sit with his twelve string guitar and play.

It was while working for a book publisher in London that Gerry bought his first guitar. He soon returned to Ireland and became involved in traditional Irish music.

His own writing is a hybrid of the passion found in traditional music and the freshness of contemporary song.

Gerry O'Beirne has toured around the globe with several bands and artists including Patrick Street, The Sharon Shannon Band, Midnight Well (which featured his unique slide guitar playing), The Waterboys, Andy M Stewart, Martin Hayes, Kevin Burke and Andy Irvine.

He has performed at the White House, opened for the Grateful Dead, and played electric guitar with Marianne Faithfull. As a producer Gerry has a large number of albums to his credit including *Promenade* for Kevin Burke and Micheal O'Dhomhnaill (winner of the Grand Prix Du Disque at Montreux), *Irish Times* by Patrick Street, *Man In The Moon* and *Donegal Rain* by Andy M Stewart, *First Footing* by Anam, *The Connaughtman's Rambles* by Martin O'Connor, *Up Close* by Kevin Burke, *Lifting The Veil* by Fiona Joyce, *To Anyone At All* by Clandestine, *Fine Small Storm* by Jen Hamel and many more.



Gerry's album was chosen as one of the best 12 independent releases of last year by Performing Songwriter magazine, who featured him in an article and interview in their May 2000 issue, and the album was also chosen as one of Folkworld's top ten albums of the year. This year he will be touring in Holland, Australia, New Zealand and the USA.

## PRESS QUOTES AND REVIEWS ABOUT GERRY O'BEIRNE

"Gerry O'Beirne has written some of the best new tunes to come out of Ireland's Celtic music scene. O'Beirne's guitar playing is always a thing of wonder and his lyrics have become increasingly poetic and emotionally deep."

- Dirty Linen

"The instrumentals are out of this world. A self taught master of the 6 and 12 string guitar, the playing of O'Beirne is superlative and subtle beyond words."

- The Sunday Times

"His works are simple, elegiac and exquisitely worded pen pictures of life's experiences."

- Rock 'N' Reel

"A masterpiece."

- Folkworld

"He's a lovely singer, a powerful performer and a master musician."

- Evening Herald

"While much of his material (Isle of Malachy, Shades of Gloria, Western Highway, The Holy Ground) is best known sung by others, Gerry reclaims his songs. He involves the listener with a gentle intensity that allows the beauty of his melodies to envelop and sweep them along: images abound of mountains and deserts, foreign lands, and County Clare, loves lost and loves won."

- Irish Edition

"The highlight of the recent Waterboys concerts at the Olympia Theatre was a truly mesmerizing bottleneck solo.....by guitarist Gerry O'Beirne."

- In Dublin

“Material comes from Paul Brady, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Shawn Colvin and Lennon & McCartney, but the highlight is Gerry O’Beirne’s beautiful ‘Half Moon Bay’.”

- Q Magazine (of Maura O’Connell’s ‘Stories’)

“He should be compulsory listening for any aspiring ambitious guitarist. It’s not just his technical dexterity and brilliance that catches the imagination, it’s the inventive use of arrangements, lyrics and melody.”

- The Word

“A songwriter of immense articulation and descriptive power and blessed with a solid confident delivery.”

- Irish Music Magazine

## REVIEWS ABOUT HALF MOON BAY

"O'Beirne applies skillful, gossamer touches or surging momentum as the situation demands."

- *Los Angeles Times*

"In turns nimble and aggressive, O'Beirne's playing is entirely idiosyncratic and full of surprises."

- *Columbus Dispatch*

“If you like poetry in music, and a soulful performance, ‘Half Moon Bay’ is for you. A virtuoso whose guitar is an extension of himself.”

- The Music Matters Review

His works are simple, elegiac and exquisitely worded pen pictures of life’s experiences.”

- Rock ‘N’ Reel

“A masterpiece.” - Folkworld

“The instrumentals are out of this world. A self taught master of the 6 and 12 string guitar, the playing of O’Beirne is superlative and subtle beyond words.”

- The Sunday Times“