

Simon Jackson



Simon Jackson is an acoustic guitar virtuoso, singer, songwriter, composer and multi-instrumentalist working in the English tradition.

His first exposure to folk music came, around the time he could first get into pubs, from the recordings of Whippersnapper and the folk clubs of

the South East of England. He first went to folk clubs for the performance opportunities and almost immediately fell in love with the music and the atmosphere of the places.

He first took up the guitar aged eleven and took classical guitar lessons at school. While continuing classical studies to a high level he also became interested in early blues, flamenco, rock and funk. He ended up getting a first class degree in jazz, but folk music has always been his passion and he has attended clubs wherever he has lived.

His main folk guitar influences come from Steve Tilston, Kevin Dempsey and John Martyn, especially in the style of his accompaniment, but you can certainly hear traces of Davy Graham, Pierre Bensusan and Jon Renbourn in his playing along with flamenco and Irish traditions.

In live performance Simon has a very direct emotional connection with his audience and a relaxed manner:

"We were absolutely knocked out! A very packed lounge bar was enthralled by Simon's guitar work and voice. He managed to penetrate a crowded room with no PA and still his voice was as clear as a lark. His choice of material was spot on with superb arrangements. Simon also played some of his own material which was equally as good as the covers he performed. I have him booked for a guest night at the club. Simon is an up and coming star of the

folk scene."

Dave Johns [Scrag End Folk Club]

"... his guest appearance was another success. A very fine guitarist, much influenced in his style by his early classical tuition he has now developed a unique style with great range of technique and sublime and very impressive use of harmonics. He can drive his playing along at a fine pace when needed, as demonstrated in various instrumentals. ... Simon is also a good judge of fine songs. He did an unusual version of 'Spencer the Rover', Maggie Holland's 'A Place Called England', an excellent self penned song 'Stainless and Cold Pressed Steel' a boat maker song and associated self composed tune 'Sailing the Ice'. A highlight for me was the excellent Huw Williams song 'Rosemary's Sister' beautifully performed. Terrific performances ..."

John Chambers - Second Time Around Folk Club

His CD **Sailing the Ice** has also been very well received:

"First solo disc from leader of the eclectic Tangata gang. An engrossing selection of songs and satisfyingly virtuoso self-penned instrumentals (influences from Renbourn and Martyn to flamenco). The songs include a Carthy-esque trad. arr, some thoughtful covers and respectable originals. Classy help from Beth Noble and Steafan Hannigan, among others."

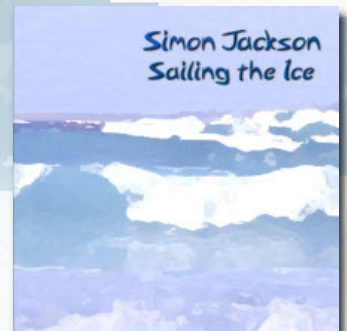
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You can also hear the wide range of musical influences in the eclectic mix he composes for his band **tangata** who have been well received at festivals. **iROOTS** magazine called it:

"... A vibrant take on European folk and roots traditions and a nice line in world-influenced, jazz-inflected Celtic tunesmithery (and songs)"

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You can find out about gigs, read more, listen to samples, watch video performances, get press packs or get in touch through the website and contact details below.



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