

March 1st 2015 - for immediate release

Simon Widdowson

Simon Widdowson has been making music and performing in Europe and America for the better part of the last 25 years. From his roots in Northern England and widespread in his travels, this new album documents the best of the last 15 years with songs written and recorded in and around Santa Fe New Mexico, Portland Oregon, Cork Ireland and Lyon France.



A new collection featuring two new songs "Better I Know" and "Winter of You and Me" along with 10 tracks taken from Simon Widdowson's 5 previous albums. Available on CD only March 27th 2015.

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UK TOUR DATES 2015

March 27th - Shangri La, Carlton Club, Prestwich
March 28 - Blind Pig, Sowerby Bridge
March 30th - Oporto, Leeds
March 31st - Blues Bar, Harrogate
April 1st - Nevermind, York
April 2nd - Flying Pig, Cambridge
April 3rd - Spice of Life, London
April 5th - Odd Bar, Manchester
July 17-19 Fell Foot Sound Festival, Windermere

Simon Widdowson "Better I Know" 2015 album track listing

Better I Know / Winter of You and Me

Two new songs written and recorded during the winter of 2014/2015 in the mountains in France, south of Lyon.

Forgetting You're Gone

A song written in Lyon while reflecting on a long drive through the night between Santa Fe, New Mexico and Seattle, Washington. It was around 3am when I hit a deer on the road in Devils Canyon, Idaho. The track was recorded during a live studio session in Tarare France on February 21st 2009 which yielded the album "The Loss of Innocence"

Nowhere Special

Another song written in Lyon in 2009 and which also featured on the album "The Loss of Innocence" although this version is an acoustic version from sessions in Saillans, France in September 2013 and later released on the 2014 album "Looking for the Sun"

Coming Out Wrong

Going back to 2004 in Portland Oregon and just before closing the Are You Listening? Studio in Portland's industrial Eastside, I found the time to record some new songs with a band that featured King Black Acid drummer Jason Bedard, Man of the Year bassist Kelley Simmons and Everclear keyboardist James Beaton. These sessions went on to become the 2005 album "Frame".

I Would

Another track written in Lyon and recorded in Tarare France and featured on the 2010 album "The Loss of Innocence"

So Far to Go

A song written in the mid 90's while living in Santa Fe, New Mexico and also recorded there during a live studio session of about 15 songs on which became the 1997 album "Weather Vane".

Outlaw

This song was written while living in Cork, Ireland between 2005 and 2007 and was recorded several years later during the "Loss of Innocence" sessions and again in 2013 for the album "Looking for the Sun" which is the version here.

Miles Away

Another track from Portland Oregon and featured on the 2005 album "Frame"

Roadblock

Written after first arriving in Portland in 2000 after spending 7 years in the desert and mountains of New Mexico, This track featured on the 2002 album release "Sweeper" featuring Ezra Holbrook on drums and Aaron Masonek on bass.

It's What You Do

A song written in 2012 after spending a year back in England in 2011 and was recorded a couple of years later in Saillans France for the 2014 album "Looking for the Sun".

Don't Say it Isn't So

Another song from the album "Frame" which was started as demos in Portland Oregon and was completed after moving back to Santa Fe in 2005, shortly before leaving the US and going to live in Ireland.

BIOGRAPHY

"I grew up on the outskirts of Leeds and at 21 years old, boarded a plane with a guitar and a suitcase full of records and landed in Minneapolis in search of my fortune. It was the late 80's and I hung out in bars on the West Bank, like the Cabooze and Whiskey Junction and started out playing lead guitar in a Blues Band called Killing Floor. Minnesota was also Bob Dylan country and home to the beginnings of Alt Country and Americana with groups like Gear Daddies and Jayhawks and there was the Uptown Bar and First Avenue, The Replacements and Husker Du and it was a great way to start off.

I fronted a power pop trio called The Rainjackets and performed regularly at the 400 Bar and 7th Street Entry and after seven frozen winters, in Minneapolis I set sail for Santa Fe New Mexico in an old Volvo. From there I played acoustic guitar and harmonica in dusty old saloons and college towns across America; from the Bluebird Cafe in Nashville to the Fox Theatre in Boulder, I performed 250 shows a year for over 5 years and drove over 250,000 miles across the desert, the great plains and the mountains and shared the stage with John Martyn, Peter Case, Dave Mason, Tom Paxton, Leo Kottke, Spin Doctors, Clarence Gatemouth Brown, RL Burnside, Clive Gregson, Deacon Blue, Dharma Bums, Crashtest Dummies, Subdudes, Peter Himmelman and many more.

In the late 90's I settled in Portland Oregon which at that time was a mostly blue collar, not quite yet hipster town and home to Elliot Smith, Dandy Warhols and many more English influenced pop rock outfits. I built a recording studio and artist space called Are You Listening? and recorded and produced many great artists such as Decemberists, Pete Krebs, Little Sue, Charmparticles, Hindi Guns, Papillon and many more and was also conveniently able to borrow their musicians to make my own albums and play a few gigs.

After 18 years in America I went to Ireland and wandered the windswept cliffs of West Cork and Kerry and spent countless evenings mesmerised by traditional folk music sessions. I lived in Cork and played solo gigs and continued to work as a producer and recording engineer then after almost 3 years in Ireland I went to France in search of the sun. I spent 4 years in Lyon, performing regularly with various musicians and working as a recording engineer and producer (Novox, Karimouche, Zen Zila), before in 2011 making a return to Leeds 25 years after I had left. I played solo gigs around the North of England before signing a deal with French label Fakir Music and going back to France to record the 5 song ep "Simon Widdowson & Bellecour".

In 2014 I moved to secluded place in the mountains and recorded and released a solo acoustic album entitled "Looking for the Sun". I performed regularly in France and the UK and also released a new 4 track EP titled "A Little Bit Blue" with a Trio featuring harmonica and upright bass. March of 2015 sees the release of a new "Best of" album on CD containing 2 new tracks written and recorded this past winter and I'll be playing several UK shows over the Spring and Summer.

"Widdowson isn't just playing up to the journeyman artist stereotype, behind the casual melodies smart arrangements and typical British gift for irony there's a palpable restlessness to this guy and his songs"
Dave Kirby, Colorado Daily

"Widdowson is a superior songwriter whose intelligent social and political commentary is never preachy because it's usually grounded in a personal context. Musically his adept mingling of rock and roll, folk elements and catchy pop hooks result in tunes remarkable for their depth and scope"
Rick Mason, Minneapolis Star Tribune

"British transplant Simon Widdowson is a prolific, socially conscious songwriter who wears his heart on his sleeve and whose nimble phrasing recalls both Graham Parker and Van Morrison"
Jim Walsh, Billboard Magazine