

# Dean Owens – Celtic Connections “Dream Date” and AMA-UK Showcase



**One of Scotland's best...** “Whispering” Bob Harris  
**Scotland's most engaging and haunting singer-songwriter...** Irvine Welsh  
Celtic Americana from Leith via Nashville

**Dean Owens** is one of Scotland's finest singer songwriters, with fans including Bob Harris, Ricky Ross, Irvine Welsh and Russell Brand. His songs *Raining in Glasgow* and *Man From Leith* have been hailed as classics of Scottish songwriting.

2015 was a great year for Dean, with his Nashville recorded **Into the Sea** CD receiving rave reviews and extensive airplay – including a session for **Bob Harris Country** (BBC Radio 2) in December. It appeared on several Best of... lists at the end of the year, **including #5 on the Sunday Herald Top 50**. Touring took him from Lerwick to Brighton, including opening for **Rosanne Cash** at London's Union Chapel, and headlining his own shows at the London Folk and Roots Festival and Edinburgh's Christmas Spiegelent.

2016 looks like topping that, with several exciting projects in the pipeline (which will take him from Shetland to Nashville and New Mexico), kicking off with a couple of appearances at Glasgow's world renowned **Celtic Connections** festival. Immediately after he will open for Grammy award winning singer songwriter **Gretchen Peters** at her Aberdeen gig on 1 Feb, before heading straight to London where he has been selected for a **showcase spot** at the **Americana Music Association UK** Conference and Awards on **2, 3 Feb**, hosted by Bob Harris.

On **Sat 16 Jan** he is performing (with his Whisky Hearts band) with award winning US musician **Patty Griffin** at the City Halls, a gig that several fans of both have dubbed “a dream date” and “unmissable”! Dean is also part of the **Sister Cities Tartan Ties** project which links musicians and artists from sister cities Dunedin (New Zealand) and Edinburgh, a project which also includes indie folk balladeer Dan Wilson (Withered Hand), Craig Lithgow (Emelle), Hailey Beavis and Neu Reekie's Kevin Williamson (from Scotland) and Robert Scott and Jay Clarkson from New Zealand's indie music capital. Supported by the British Council, Sister Cities Tartan Ties will open at **Celtic Connections on 27 Jan**, before embarking on a short tour of **Helensburgh, Paisley and Edinburgh**.

Armed with a searingly soulful voice, skillfully crafted stories and memorably heart-twisting melodies, Dean Owens is a compelling and engaging live performer, with an innate ability to connect with any audience through an emotional hurricane of stories and songs. His band, **The Whisky Hearts**, is a mighty all star line-up (including Jim McDermott (drums), Amy Geddes (fiddle) and Brian McAlpine (keyboards)) who can rock up a storm!

Recent live sessions include **Under the Apple Tree** at “Whispering” **Bob Harris's** house in Oxford for **WBTV** (co-ordinated by Bob's son Miles Myerscough-Harris), BBC Radio Scotland (inc **Ricky Ross Another Country**, **The Janice Forsyth Show** and **Iain Anderson Show**) as well as **Bob Harris Country** (BBC Radio 2) in December.

**Into the Sea** was recorded in Nashville, Tennessee with producer **Neilson Hubbard** and a host of acclaimed US musicians, including guitarist **Will Kimbrough** and renowned singer songwriters **Kim Richey** and **Suzy Bogguss**. It was released on London based independent label **Drumfire Records** in May 2015 to rave reviews, consolidating Dean's reputation as one of the UK's outstanding singer songwriters. It was **Album of the Week** (BBC Radio Scotland's *Iain Anderson Show*) and Dean was Scotland on Sunday's **Artist of the Week**. Three consecutive singles from the album (*Valentine's Day in New York*, *Evergreen* and *Up On The Hill*) were **playlisted** by BBC Radio Scotland, with the album gaining extensive airplay throughout the UK, as well as in USA and Canada. *Into the Sea* defies genre categorisation and has had radio play on rock, indie, Americana, country and folk shows.

In his early career Dean was the front-man of the much loved Scottish Americana band The Felsons. His music has taken him far and wide, including Europe, USA and Australia. He has played shows and toured with the Mavericks, Steve Earle, Emmylou Harris and Joan As Policewoman, to name just a few.

**For more press information, interviews, hi res photos, CDs, MP3s, press tickets etc,**  
please call **Morag Neil** on **0771 288 0965** (email [info@scarybiscuits.com](mailto:info@scarybiscuits.com))

## LISTINGS

<b>Sat 16 Jan</b>	8pm	Patty Griffin + Dean Owens and The Whisky Hearts <b>Celtic Connections</b> (City Halls), Glasgow
<b>Sister Cities Tartan Ties</b> dates		
<b>Wed 27 Jan</b>	7.30pm	<b>Celtic Connections</b> (The National Piping Centre), Glasgow
<b>Fri 29 Jan</b>	7.30pm	<b>The Tower</b> , Helensburgh
<b>Sat 30 Jan</b>	7.30pm	<b>Paisley Arts Centre</b> , Paisley
<b>Sun 31 Jan</b>	7pm	<b>The Voodoo Rooms</b> , Edinburgh
<b>Mon 1 Feb</b>	8pm	<b>Lemon Tree</b> , Aberdeen (supporting Gretchen Peters)
<b>Tues 2 Feb</b>	time TBC	<b>AMA-UK Showcase</b> , <b>The Moth Club</b> , London