

# Jaime Michaels



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... I look for the songwriter's songwriter. Jaime Michaels fits that description and... and lyrics, and clean expertise in the guitar department. His humor suited the... " Marilyn Babcock/Four Friends Acoustic Music Series

...er it was singing church hymns in Latin, his parents playing the old upright piano in... rds. When Joe entered the army, he left an old guitar with Jaime, and later started to... send Jaime albums by the Kingston Trio, Peter, Paul & Mary and Bob Dylan. Then Jaime discovered the musician who, to this day, remains his all-time musical hero, Boston folkie Tom Rush. Tom was and is a genius at finding songs that speak universally.

Jaime listened and learned. His musical journey began with solo gigs in the coffeehouses of Boston and Cambridge. This was followed by several years as a bass player in the acoustic trio, Beckett, opening shows for Livingston Taylor, Doc Watson, Dave Van Ronk and Jonathan Edwards, among others. The 80's found Jaime living in the South Carolina low country, spreading his rock and roll wings as lead singer for cult rockers "the Truly Dangerous Swamp Band". He spent eight years with the Swamp Band, crisscrossing the country playing colleges and bars, opening shows for rockers such as Little Feat, Bonnie Raitt, Delbert McClinton and Paul Barrere's Bluesbusters.

In the early 90's, Jaime tired of the rock and roll road life and returned to his first love, acoustic music. In 1997 he moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico where, for the first time in his career, he began to seriously write.

He's recorded nine solo albums so far, each filled with finely crafted songs that showcase his passionate voice and the varied musical influences he's absorbed over the years. His 2011 release, "the man with the time machine" was named Album of the Year by the New Mexico Music Awards.

He released his latest album, "unknown blessings", at his concert at the 2013 Kerrville Folk Festival. It's an album of primarily cover tunes written by artists with whom Jaime shares a love of the late night song circles at Kerrville. All proceeds from the sale of the album are being donated to the Kerrville Folk Music Foundation for use at their summer Music Camp for Teens.

Jaime tours the US and Europe, playing house concerts, festivals, and arts venues. Just Jaime and his wonderfully worn Taylor guitar. And the songs.

As Mark S. Tucker remarks in his FAME review of Jaime's album, "the man with the time machine", "Michaels watches the side currents of life, not the hurtlingly frantic noise and images... far more the missed opportunities, the mistakes, the wrinkles in the heart. We may be living through the 21st century, but work like his takes us back to a Mayberry that's a lot scruffier around the edges, an indeterminate era when our fantasies about such things danced a little differently."

"Unknown Blessings is a heartfelt love letter to the artists and songs that have come to define the Kerrville Folk Festival. These 14 finely wrought tunes, two of which Michaels co-wrote, are a reminder that even in this age of hipster groove-folk and layer cake production, in the end, it's all about the song"

April Reese - journalist and KBAC DJ

