

Joe Crookston

Songwriter, Performer, Artist, Facilitator & Producer

BIOGRAPHY

You're sitting in a beautiful theatre with 250 other people waiting to hear Joe Crookston perform....expecting to hear a guy with a guitar, fingerpick and play some great songs. It's true, but you are about to experience something much more.

Pulled in by the magic and musical world that he creates, you'll become part of the show. You'll travel with him along mystical, historical, and humorous roads, and twist through personal, colorful stories along the way. At the end of the night, you'll leave inspired, with a renewed sense of what is possible.

From the first strum of his 1948 Gibson, through stories of ruby red dresses, Tinian Island, Dylan Thomas, Taoist parables and drunken roosters you'll be drawn in and deeply moved by his music. It happens every time. Watch a YouTube video. Check him out. It's not the same.

Through his spirit and playfulness and his unwavering courage to be himself, you will be moved in ways you didn't expect. He is literate, poignant and funny as hell, And there is no doubt that you'll be glad you came to the show.

He now lives in Ithaca, NY, and tours regularly in the US, Ireland and Canada.

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His CD, "*Able Baker Charlie & Dog*" received the most airplay of any folk acoustic recording and was awarded:

**"Album of the Year" by the International Folk Alliance** in Memphis, TN.

He received a year-long songwriting grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to travel throughout New York State, collect stories, and write original songs.

His favorite quote about his music is:

"I hate folk music, but I absolutely LOVE Joe Crookston's music!"

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But, for Joe, it's less about awards and quotes, and it's more about this:

"I am learning to trust that my voice as a songwriter is a combination of my conscious and unconscious mind. More and more I find that when I tell my story from both of these realms, it has wider breadth, deeper impact, and resonates more clearly.

After years of creating, I do feel as though I've honed a way of writing and performing that has identifiable themes and expresses my quirky uniqueness.

There is a Georgia O'Keeffe quote that I love, and I'm paraphrasing: "The parts of ourselves that we are most self-conscious of, are the parts of ourselves that are most uniquely true to who we are!"

I see my job as an artist to have the confidence to sing, play and perform from this deep/true place inside of myself despite what is hip and cool at the moment."

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Joe Crookston is a master storyteller. His music swirls with themes of lightness, darkness, clocks ticking, weeping willows, cynicism, hope, and the cycles of life and rebirth. If you love a moving song and musical madness, Joe Crookston delivers it all, the melodies, the lyrics, the energy, and a deep passion for exceptionally well-written songs.

Haven't seen him perform? Promise, you'll be more than glad you did.

**COVER SONGS:** His music has been recorded and performed by Irish harpers, a cappella gospel choirs, solo artists, and numerous national and international performers.

**SOLO:** Joe performs regularly as a solo artist. His blend of guitar mastery, story songs, humor, unstoppable energy and rhythm bring the house to their feet at almost every show.

**DUO:** (For select dates) Joe is available as a DUO with Peter Glanville on six-string guitar, tenor guitar, and vocals. Glanville is also from Ithaca, NY and plays extensively on Joe's 2011 "Darkling & the BlueBird Jubilee" CD.

**TRIO:** (For select venues and festivals) Joe is available with his trio "**The BlueBird Jubilee**" with Peter Glanville on six-string guitar, tenor guitar, and vocals along with Ithaca resident and keyboardist Nate Richardson on Rhodes, piano and vocal harmonies.

**WORKSHOPS/RETREATS:** Joe enjoys teaching and facilitating. For select dates he is available for songwriting workshops in conjunction with a public concert. He is an experienced facilitator, and has been invited to teach at many retreats including SummerSongs, The Swannanoa Gathering in North Carolina, and the Yearly Quaker Gathering in Rhode Island.

**VISUAL ART:** For select concerts, Joe displays his acrylic and oil paintings combining his visual art with his music. As a painter and songwriter, Joe brings his love of imagery to life on stage, in his songs and to the canvas.

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