

Ian Melrose

From Scottish Roots to New Acoustic Guitar

Ian Melrose was born in Middlesbrough, England. As a child he moved back to Ayr in Scotland with his Scottish parents and younger brother. Ian's father was a member of the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra, so traditional music was always there somewhere. His early influences were the famous figures from the "British school of guitar-playing" i.e. Davey Graham, John Renbourn, Bert Jansch and John Martyn.

Based in Berlin since 1981, he has made a name for himself on the European acoustic scene not only as a **soloist** but also with the projects **Kelpie** (*Scandinavian-Celtic duo*), **Four-Styles Guitar Festival**, **Leuchter-Melrose Duo** (*World Accordion meets Fingerstyle Guitar*), and **Celtic Guitar Journeys** (*with Dylan Fowler and Soig Siberil*). He has done extensive tours of Germany, Holland, Italy, Norway and Canada and has done many studio jobs for well-known artists as well as writing film music. He was lead guitarist with the Irish cult band **CLANNAD** from 1996 – 1999 and can be heard on "*Clannad:Live*" and the grammy-winning album **Landmarks**. He currently writes a fingerstyle column for the national German magazine "Akustik Gitarre" and has appeared on over 100 albums. He is an endorser for Avalon guitars, DR strings, G7th Capos Rheingold cables and Finholm stompboxes.

Fingerstyle: Celtic-jazzy-bluesy

In his solo concerts Ian plays pieces from his critically acclaimed albums **Wolves**, **Between the Sighs**, **A Scottish Legacy**, **A Shot in the Dark** and his current album **Around the Corner in 80 Minutes** (Acoustic Music Records) It is not only the "*breathhtaking fingerwork*" (Berliner Morgenpost) which impresses his audiences, but also his "*warm and expressive voice*" (Berliner Zeitung) and his virtuoso low-whistle playing. His guitar compositions show a strong leaning towards his "Celtic roots", where elements of Irish & Scottish dance tunes and ballads mix easily with South-American rhythms and jazz harmonies

"..displays Melrose as one of the best Celtic-based fingerpickers on the scene..." **Acoustic Guitar (USA)**

" .. a first-class guitarist a brilliant fingerpicker!"

THE TIMES (GB)

"Bow down -- a guitar god is in the house, or at least in the CD player. In a breathtaking 52 minutes, Ian Melrose graces us with 15 tracks and 21 Scottish fiddle tunes played on the acoustic and slide guitars. When it's all over, we're agog at his virtuosity, but also blessed for the beauty he's brought us, all for the cost of a CD." **RAMBLES - online culture magazine (USA)**

"Ian Melrose, sat like a cat amongst the pigeons on the stage, surrounded by some of the finest guitar players in Canada. The atmosphere was amenable and the audience attentive until Ian played. Suddenly the mouths of everyone in the room, including those on stage, dropped open. Could this guy play! By his third song in the round, the anticipation buzzing around the crowd was electrifying. He then polished off the theme to the Pink Panther in fine style. It is one of those amazing experiences of which festival memories are made." **FOLK PRINTS - Ontario Council of Folk Festivals Newsletter (CAN)**

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