



MARK MULHOLLAND

Glasgow to Bamako via Berlin, Paris, Prague, Galway, Port-au-Prince ...

Mark Mulholland is a travelling singer and songwriter, whose musical peregrinations have taken him from his native Scotland through most of Europe and North America, via Haiti, to Bamako, Mali, where he is now based. Always combining his solo career with various bands and projects including **Two Dollar Bash**, an acoustic folk/country/blues group whose 4th album, "**New Adventures**", was released in 2011, he is also in demand as a session musician, having made recordings over the years with **Nikki Sudden**, **Captain Sensible**, **Phil Shoenfelt**, **Tony Allen** and many other artists. His influences include Celtic folk, country, reggae, blues, jazz, rock and punk, and beside acoustic and electric guitar, he also turns his hand to other stringed instruments including banjo, mandola, bass and lap steel guitar.

Mark's songs have been covered on albums in the USA (**Barleyjuice**, **Sharla June and the Mayhaws**), the UK (**George Stott**) and the Czech Republic (**The Lazy Pigs**) and also feature in the live repertoire of a wide variety of artists throughout Europe, America and beyond.

His second solo album, "**The Cactus and the Dragon**", was recorded in Berlin, Paris, Antwerp and San Francisco with an impressive selection of guest musicians, and released on the Berlin label **Cannery Row Records** in 2011 to critical acclaim, as a follow up to the double album "**The Devil on the Stairs**" (2008). September 2012 saw the UK release of "**Waiting for the Storm**", a collaboration with former **dEUS** guitarist **Craig Ward** and Belgian double bass player **Hannes d'Hoine**. The album was chosen by the Telegraph as one of "five summer treats of British folk music", and rated by R2 magazine as "one of the best albums of 2012".

After years of splitting his time between Berlin, Paris and other European cities, Mark moved to Haiti in 2010, where he worked with young local bands in a cultural centre in Port-au-Prince, as well as collaborating with many established Haitian artists, including the world-renowned writer, painter and actor **Frankétienne**, with whom he created several spoken word and music pieces, and who also made a guest appearance on "**Waiting for the Storm**", and the singer **Wooly Saint Louis Jean**, with whom he recorded an album of traditional Haitian songs which will soon be ready for release. During his time in Haiti, Mark made regular trips back to Europe to continue with his projects there, including two tours in 2012 taking in Belgium, Holland, Germany, the Czech Republic, the UK and France with **Craig Ward** and **Hannes d'Hoine**. In 2013 he recorded a full album with **Frankétienne**, entitled "**Chaophonies**", which was released by Cannery Row Records/Jesus Factory Records in March 2014, and toured in Europe and Haiti with the project, including a performance at the prestigious Maison de la Poésie in Paris, and an interview and live performance on the "Tropismes" TV show on France Ô with the legendary French journalist **Laure Adler**. In May 2014 he recorded an album in San Francisco with two friends and long-time musical partners, **Rusty Miller** (Jackpot, Cake) and **James Finch Jr.**, which will be released in 2015. In June 2014, Mark worked on a project in Haiti with the legendary Nigerian drummer **Tony Allen**, along with **Sanba Zao** and other top Haitian percussionists, bassist **Jean-Philippe Dary**, and electronic musician **Olaf Hund**. The collaboration culminated in a concert on the Champ de Mars, the main square of Port-au-Prince, which was broadcast live on national television, and the recordings of the project may form the basis of an album. During the week of rehearsals, Tony, Jean-Philippe and Olaf backed up Mark for a solo concert, and the spontaneous chemistry that happened during this gig inspired the 4 musicians to plan a recording session in Paris in November. During this trip he will also be starting work on a new album with **Craig Ward** and **Hannes d'Hoine**, and will be completing the mastering of the album he recorded with **Rusty Miller** and **James Finch Jr.**

In September 2014, Mark and his wife moved to Bamako, Mali, and he looks forward to working with some of the many fantastic musicians there.

Comments

"Mulholland is a master of his craft" *Micky Clark, R2 (4 stars from 5)*

"Mulholland has a range of influences and enjoys a huge number of styles; what's impressive is his ability to draw on them and create a collection of music that is, whilst varied, undeniably his. The Cactus and the Dragon, with its shades of dark green and brown and reeking of stale coffee from a roadside diner, is a seriously impressive piece of work." *Dan Lucas, Drowned in Sound (8 stars from 10)*

"The Cactus and The Dragon' doesn't do much wrong and does plenty that's right." *Never Enough Notes (8 stars from 10)*

« Mark Mulholland is an interesting artist and one worth keeping an eye on. » *Folk World Europe*

"A fine collection of bittersweet songs. An inventive, melodic guitarist with a warm and expressive singing voice; flashes of Jansch, Perrett, and Dylan; conjuring long languid afternoons and melancholy drawn-out nights in distant cities A delightful variety of styles which unfold gradually to reward the attentive listener" *Nick West, Rock'n'Reel (4 stars from 5)*

"Hypnotic and forlorn tales of heartbreak and longing ... a great late-night reflective collection, incandescently candlelit and replete with swirling psych tinges of the early Roy Harper, Robert Wyatt and the desultory poetry of Townes Van Zandt. A truly special purchase" *Maverick magazine (4 stars from 5)*

"A ripe collection of tales from the road" *Uncut*

"The music will speak for itself – and yield hidden riches over countless return visits" *The Irish Times*

« Different, creative, challenging, intriguing, unique and very satisfying » *Green Man Review*

"Developed and incredibly unique" *Mudkiss*



« Timeless, intimate and immediate. A magical listen. » *Misfit City*

"A versatile and accomplished songwriter with memorable songs and an impressive voice, who has developed a distinctive yet richly varied style of music." *Ost-Thüringer Zeitung*

"Mulholland's solid, varied and atmospheric guitar playing is most impressive, effortlessly switching between rhythmic and melodic songs, one moment playing with raw power, the next coaxing sounds delicately from the strings. His voice is no less versatile than his playing, one moment ringing out high and clear, the next gravelly, always bringing impact and feeling to his songs, which, although drawn from different genres, always reflect his own distinctive style" *Vogtlands Anzeiger*

« Among the most inspiring musicians that I have ever had the pleasure to perform with" *Nikki Sudden*

"When I play his songs, I find out quickly who among my listeners knows what it's like to fall in love, or fall apart, or dream a drunken dream, or smile at a sunrise from the back of a truck. Those people are the ones who say, "Wow, what a great song." *Bill Hanglely Jr*

	<p>Website: www.markmulholland.net Label: www.canneryrowrecords.com Direct contact: mulhollandmark@yahoo.com Other links: mulhollandward.bandcamp.com</p>	
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