



CD Release: "Mystery Water"
Artist: Kevin Connolly
Genre: Americana/Folk/AAA
Label: Real Records
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"A stellar acoustic jewel of an album... no punches pulled...riveting"
Patriot Ledger
 "Hollow-eyed and knowing... With a touch of John Prine's clarity and a bit of Tom Waits' spookiness, its a captivating view"
Paste Magazine
 "A rugged voice that creates a reality where you can live honestly, dream reasonably and believe in the songs."
Holly Gleason
 "Just terrific"
Leigh Montville
 "Great production and incredible songs"
The Noise

CD Release

Mystery Water is Connolly's seventh release and his first all acoustic effort. Recorded mostly live and co-produced by Ducky Carlisle, the sound is spare and simple -inspired by Rick Rubin's American Recording sessions. **Mystery Water** is a flavored mix of Americana folk, blues, and roots country influences rounded out by Kevin's sense of melody and foot tapping rhythms. As in the past the songs are short stories and reflections on life using narrative characters and stark details that create black and white images. Connolly's gravel tinged voice is front and center here, complemented by the warm sound of his acoustic guitar, and Steve Sadler's lap steel, mandolin and dobro.

"We wanted as stripped down and earthy a feel as we could get," says Connolly. "We deconstructed a lot of these songs in the studio feeling that less would be more."

Mystery Water's tone is set by nine original songs and complemented by covers of Lucinda William's "Blue" and Ray Bonneville's "Listen." Semi-biographical sketches of Boston longshoremen set in early 50's ("Castle Island") collide with images of old Ford's careening off bridges into icy water ("Mystery Water"), and love infected convenience store romantics ("One Big Burning"). The loss of a best friend ("Along the Wall") and discovery of some soul center represent more personal excursions without being maudlin or overly sentimental: "Somebody give me a reason, somebody tell me a story, somebody give me a song to sing, one that's not boring" ("Do Me"). And boring they're not.

While Connolly has been called a songwriter's songwriter, there is something here for everyone. In the true tradition of American independent artists, it's the perspective and ability to tell a story that make **Mystery Water** the kind of collection that you will live with and listen to over and over.

Brief History

Writing and performing for almost twenty years, Kevin Connolly has carved out his own way of writing American songs and earned a reputation as a passionate performer. Connolly has toured extensively in the U.S. and Europe behind his 6 previous releases, while maintaining a strong presence and tie to his New England roots. Working the college and coffeehouse circuit solo, Kevin has also played major festivals including Newport Folk, SXSW, Kerrville Folk and Bumbershoot. He has opened up for a long list on notable artists including Indigo Girls, Huey Lewis, Todd Rundgren and Joan Osborne. Locally, Kev in plays a lot with his band that include the talents of Ducky Carlise (drums), Chris Rival (guitar), Scott Corneille (bass). Kevin's songs have also appeared on network television in episodes of NBC's "First Watch" and in films like Danny Aiello's "Mojave Moon."

Raised on Boston's South Shore, Kevin comes from a musical family with composer/brother Jim Connolly a fixture of the West Coast "New Music" scene. Early influences like John Prine, Tom Waits and Bob Dylan remain inspirations and guiding forces. Writing descriptive songs that capture something about regular life in America today has been a running theme and preoccupation. For more information and a full discography visit www.kevinconnolly.com

NY Times... "Connolly's music cuts a fairly wide swath through pop music culture, touching on everything from blues to folk to country to rock — and often a combination of all four"
Dirty Linen Magazine- "The songs reflect his grounding in an array of roots music styles... earthy, rhythmic collections of dark-tinged musings, rich ballads. The gravelly, weather-beaten voice of Connolly gives life to vivid vignettes sculpted from painstaking realism. His live performances are intense, the focused flow of music and energy interspersed with dry, laconic humor."
Boston Magazine ... "Best of Boston"
Album Network ... "A songwriter's songwriter, an uncompromising performer and an original personality"
CMJ ... "a startlingly rewarding artist"
Boston Phoenix ... "Literary, serious, reflective, soulful, eclectic, blues-driven... the crowd needed two encores, a testimony to Connolly's ability to spin his energy into the room."

