

Jamie O'Brien



Jamie O'Brien was exposed to traditional Irish and music hall songs by his London-Irish family as he grew up in the Brixton area of South London. Youth was a rich time for him as he experienced the rock music he heard in London clubs, such as the Marquee, the Pink Flamingo and the Crawdaddy. But along with friends, he discovered the world of traditional English folk song and dance. A decade in Europe made its mark, as he added German and French songs to his repertoire; living in the US, he discovered Americana; and frequent visits to Hawaii saw him introduce a tropical element to his approach.

Over time, these different genres have somehow come together into his distinctive style of playing: *Jamie O'Brien, the Tropical Celt - a contemporary approach with a traditional slant!* Add to that his offbeat sense of humor and multilingual talents!

Jamie sings and plays guitar and ukulele and can be found performing solo, with accompaniment or with his band, the Launies. He tours frequently with traditional Irish button accordion/melodeon player, Dan Possumato, with singer/multi-instrumentalist, Henry

Koretzky (Americana) and with George Kahumoku Jr. (Hawaiian slack key guitar, vocals). Jamie can be seen live in the South West, the Mid-Atlantic States, Hawaii, Canada, Europe.

He has released four solo albums to date:

My Wild Irish Boy (2004) -- **Many's The Mile, Love...** (2007) -- **Celtic Shades** (2016)
and
Chasing Ghosts (2012)

The first three are celtic albums, featuring songs and tunes from Ireland, Scotland, England and Europe, while Chasing Ghosts is a collection of originals, written or co-written by Jamie. It also won a BIMA (Hawaii Media Arts) award for Adult Contemporary Album of the Year; Celtic Shades won a BIMA for World Music Album of the Year.

Jamie has appeared and/or recorded with such musicians as singer Aoife Clancy, fiddlers Jim Eagan and Rosie Shipley, Kieran O'Hare and Eliot Grasso (uilleann pipers) and pianist Donna Long from the world of Irish music; multi-Grammy winner George Kahumoku and Jamie have formed a partnership, *Celtic Aloha*, exploring the music of Hawaii and Ireland; and he has recorded with award-winning singers Dede Wyland and Nancy McCallion.

He continues to perform regularly in his adopted hometown of Tucson and throughout Arizona. He plays in concert or at festivals on the East Coast every summer and Hawaii and Europe each year. He also frequently performs on the West Coast as well as in Canada.

