

Jim Byrnes

...just a pilgrim on the side of the road...

"there aren't many singers like Jim Byrnes around anymore"

- **No Depression**

"...smoldering intensity...deeply soulful..."

- **British Blues Connection**

"...a voice that sounds like it saw creation and followed the devil down to hell..."

- **Americana UK**

"It's cross-breeding of soul and country, which recalls Otis Redding or Percy Sledge..."

- **Vancouver Province**

"...a modern twist on the blues tradition...backed by a killer band, dominated by soulful vocals..."

Naird Newsletter

www.jamestbyrnes.com

Biography



Jim Byrnes was born in St. Louis, Missouri – that's blues country. He grew up on the city's north side. One of the neighbourhood bars had Ike and Tina Turner as the house band. As a teenager going to music clubs, he and his buddy were often the only white people in the place. "We never had any problems. We were too naïve, and had too much respect for the music and culture – they knew it, they could tell."

By age thirteen, Jim was singing and playing blues guitar. His first professional gig was in 1964. Over the years, he has had the great good fortune to appear with a virtual who's who of blues. From Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker to Taj Mahal and Robert Cray, Jim has been on the blues highway for 45 years.

Byrnes moved to Vancouver, BC in the mid-70s after years of drifting, working odd jobs and playing music. In 1981 he put together a band that became a staple of the local music scene. In 1986 the Jim Byrnes Band played 300 nights.

Jim Byrnes' fame as an actor has grown immeasurably from his too-numerous-to-mention TV roles, with highlights including television's Wiseguy and Highlander series, and his own national variety show, The Jim Byrnes Show.

Jim has proven that a serious car accident in 1972 has done anything but hinder him. Despite two swipes with death and some pretty hard knocks, Byrnes has still managed to rack up an enviable string of credits, both on and off-screen.

Jim's first love, however, is the blues. His evocative, smoky vocals are found in a truth that doesn't come overnight. In 1981 he released 'Burnin', followed in 1987 with 'I've Turned My Nights into Days' and 1995's Juno-Award winning 'That River'.

Jim's has produced four outstanding albums in six years since he hooked up with Steve Dawson, one of North America's most critically acclaimed roots music producers. 2004's Fresh Horses and 2006's gospel tinged Juno Award winning House Of Refuge set standards that aren't often equalled.

'My Walking Stick' was the 2009 release ... a blood and guts, behind your knees, love, life, death, and after life

release from the multi award winning Mr. Byrnes. Jim and Steve continued to explore the gospel, blues, rockabilly, and country genres, and once again pull it all together in an original and unique bluesy way.

As Byrnes puts it, "On this recording we've gone all over the map with some originals, some obscure covers of all sorts ... fun stuff with some of the best damn players in the world."

A little more than a year later, the same team got together and produced 'Everywhere West'. A salute to Jim's origins and influences, the CD sprinkles three exciting new originals in amongst tracks by seminal artists Robert Johnson, Lowell Fulson, Jimmy Reed, The Mississippi Sheiks, Louis Jordan and many more, all clothed in Steve Dawson's fresh and inventive production.

"You know, since I first got in cahoots with Steve I knew I'd found a great ally in genre bending and eliminating the pigeon holes often foisted on musical creativity", says Byrnes. "I've been at this professionally for more than 40 years and I really feel that I'm only now discovering my true voice."

Jim Byrnes plays 150 dates a year in North America and Europe. He will continue to bring his music to stages all over the world. Who could ask for more than that?

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2011 Juno nominee (Blues Album of the Year — Everywhere West)
- 2010 Western Canadian Music Awards Winner (Blues Album of the Year — My Walking Stick)
- 2006 Juno Award winner (Blues Album of the Year — House of Refuge)
- 2006 Canadian Folk Music Awards 2-time winner for House of Refuge (Best Singer — Contemporary; Producer of the Year—Steve Dawson); 4-time nominee
- 2006 Maple Blues Awards 2-time winner for House of Refuge (Best Male Vocalist; Recording of the Year); 4-time nominee
- 2006 Leo Award nominee for music video of 'Just a Pilgrim'
- 2006 Champion for Kids Award — St. Louis Variety Club
- 2005 Maple Blues Awards 3-time nominee for Fresh Horses
- 2004 Juno Award nominee (for 0Fresh Horses)
- 2004 Western Canadian Music Awards 2-time nominee for Fresh Horses
- 2003 Heart Award — Variety Club of BC
- 1995 Induction into BC Entertainment Hall of Fame
- 1995 Juno Award winner (Blues/Gospel Album of the Year — That River)
- 1982 Juno Award nominee (Best New Artist)

Media Reaction



Everywhere West (2010)

“One thing that is certain when you are dealing with a Jim Byrnes Album, is that when you listen to it you are going to be taken away and sent on a incredible journey. ‘Everywhere West’ is absolutely no exception to that rule. Like a grandson who is mesmerized with the story telling of his grandpa, you will be mesmerized with the sounds, lyrics, and texture of ‘Everywhere West’ ... one of those special albums that seems to come out of nowhere and hits you up the side of your head with its shear brilliance, easily cutting through yesterdays mediocrity. Jim Byrnes continues to impress us with not only his amazing skills, but his instinct of whom to bring to the table when he gets that hankering to serve us all one of his bountiful musical treats. My highest rating of 5****. Highly Recommended and Thoroughly Enjoyed.”
— **Blues Underground Network**

“(Byrnes) hails from St. Louis, where his love for the blues was nurtured from an early age by seeing such greats as Jimmy Reed and Bobby ‘Blue’ Bland on-stage. Byrnes tackles tunes associated with both of those blues giants on Everywhere West, as well as songs by Robert Johnson, Lowell Fulson, Louis Jordan, and others, but he also adds a more personal perspective to the album by contributing a trio of his own compositions. He rides these tunes just right, with a perfect balance of passion and restraint -- a winning combination in a bluesman of any era.” — **All Music.com**

“A little bit o’ the blues never hurt nobody, and Jim Byrnes’ ‘Everywhere West’ might be just what the doctor ordered for you. With a little Buddy Guy, a touch of Watermelon Slim, and just a pinch of Stevie Ray Vaughan, Jim Byrnes has the right stuff to make fans from coast to coast. Byrnes is a modern blues master, radio ready and headed for the top of the charts. Do yourself a favor, and grab your copy soon.”
— **Acoustic Music.com**

“Jim Byrnes is the real deal as far as blues and roots music goes ... He ain’t pretty-playin’, folks. He’s getting down and dirty. ‘Everywhere West’ is another winner for Jim Byrnes, as he pays tribute to those artists who came before him by continuing their work making the blues as vital in the 21st Century as it was in the 20th.”
— **Phoenix Blues Society**

“You are not likely to find a more varied and enthusiastically performed modern blues album any time soon ” — **MapleBlues (Toronto Blues Society)**



My Walking Stick (2009)

“There aren’t many albums like My Walking Stick being recorded today. Then again, there aren’t many singers like Jim Byrnes around anymore either. Yet, with ‘My Walking Stick’ Byrnes has crafted a collection of songs that can stand up anywhere. It is an instantly likeable album full of musical integrity and dynamic performances.” — **No Depression**

“Jim Byrnes is a legitimate blues music hero in Canada. Hopefully ‘My Walking Stick’ will earn Byrnes the stateside respect that he deserves.” — **About.com**

“Jim Byrnes is a triple threat, not just a singer-guitarist but an actor and writer as well. Byrnes’ voice throughout the release is a throaty growl even when he’s crooning to Ophelia and singing of sundry other matters.”
— **Acoustic Music.com**

“St. Louis-born Jim Byrnes cross pollinates an exciting selection of genres on this, his umpteenth album. If you are not familiar with the music of Byrnes I think it is time you did something about it — like yesterday.”
— **Americana UK**

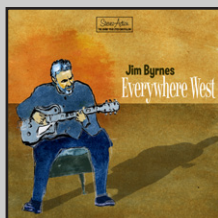
“An album that finds deep blues, rough gospel, playful swing, and dreamy-eyed country getting along like distant relatives swapping tales at a well-oiled family reunion. The whole disc invites joyful participation; it’s one jamboree that doesn’t leave anybody out.”
— **The Georgia Straight**

“On a well-chosen collection of traditionals, originals and covers (including the old-jazzed Irving Berlin title track), you hear Byrnes and his lived-in baritone pushed up on the shoulders of a best-imaginable band, outstandingly marshalled. This is the third strong Byrnes-Dawson collaboration in five years, and it’s the finest yet.”
— **The Vancouver Province**

“Like fellow countryman Colin Linden and the Band (whose “Ophelia” he covers here), Byrnes assimilates a variety of Americana influences, filters them through his grizzled, often spiritually based viewpoint, and delivers a wonderfully diverse disc, surely the equal of, and arguably better than, his 2007 Juno award-winning Album of the Year House of Refuge.” — **All Music.com**

“Whether covering Irving Berlin, Robbie Robertson, Mel Tillis ... among others, or serving up originals ... ‘My Walking Stick’ is a soulful, aural delight.” — **The Record**

Discography

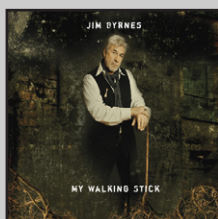


Everywhere West

2010 — Black Hen Music

Nominee:

- Juno Award (Blues Album of the Year)



My Walking Stick

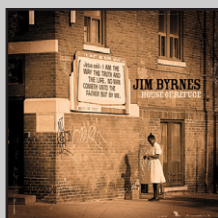
2009 — Black Hen Music

Winner:

Western Canada Music Award
(Blues Recording of the Year)

Nominee:

- 2 Canadian Folk Music Awards
(Contemporary Album & Singer of the Year)

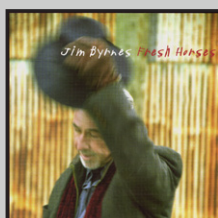


House of Refuge

2006 — Black Hen Music

Winner:

- Juno Award (Blues Album of the Year)
- 2 Maple Blues Awards (Recording and Male Vocalist of the Year); 4 nominations
- 2 Canadian Folk Music Awards (Best Contemporary Singer and Producer); 4 nominations

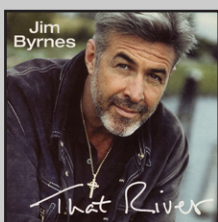


Fresh Horses

2004 — Black Hen Music

Nominee:

- Juno Award (Blues Album of the Year)
- 2 Western Canadian Music Awards
- 3 Maple Blues Awards

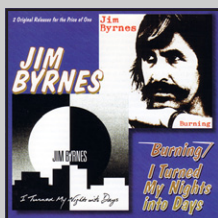


That River

1995 — Stony Plain Records

Winner:

- Juno Award (Blues Album of the Year)



Burning / I Turned My Nights Into Days

1998 — Stony Plain Records

- 'I Turned My Nights Into Days' originally released in 1987 (Stony Plain Records) and Burning originally released in 1981 (Polydor Records)



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