

JOHN MCCUSKER

'Hello, Goodbye'

New Album released 2016 on Under One Sky Records

"One of the UK's most gifted and versatile musicians in any genre, John McCusker is equally in demand as a multi-instrumentalist, producer and composer". The Guardian

In celebration of his 25th Anniversary as a professional musician, John McCusker released '**Hello, Goodbye**' on April 29th 2016 and embarked on an extensive UK & European tour. A wonderfully evocative set of compositions, '**Hello, Goodbye**' is John's first solo album in thirteen years, the first on his new record label **Under One Sky Records** and the first recorded in his state of the art studio, built over the last 2 years in a bothy dating from 1779, which neighbours his Scottish Borders home. Designed by legendary record producer and studio designer Calum Malcolm, the new studio is a winning combination of the traditional and the new, much like John's music itself!

'**Hello, Goodbye**' was composed while John was on a world tour with Mark Knopfler. The core musical group for the album is an all-star cast of handpicked musicians with whom John has been fortunate to work over the past 25 years: **James Mackintosh**, Drums/Percussion (Shooglenifty, The Blue Nile, James); **Ewen Vernal**, Bass (Deacon Blue, Capercaille); **Ian Carr**, Guitar (Eddi Reader, Julie Fowlis, Swap); **Michael McGoldrick**, Whistle (Mark Knopfler, Capercaille, Sharon Shannon); **Andy Cutting**, Melodeon (The Who, June Tabor); **Tim O'Brien** (Grammy Award Winning US bluegrass star); **Phil Cunningham** MBE, Accordion (Bonnie Raitt, Nicola Benedetti) and acclaimed Irish singer **Heidi Talbot**.

Born in Bellshill, near Glasgow, John began playing whistle and fiddle as a child and joined the legendary folk outfit **Battlefield Band** aged 17. During his 11 years with the band, he also released his first two solo recordings, 1995's self-titled debut and 2000's Yella Hoose. His most recent albums include Under One Sky and the reissues of Yella Hoose and Goodnight Ginger re-mastered deluxe.

John has long been renowned for his skill at transcending musical boundaries: striving to keep his music fresh and exciting, never leaving the past behind but always embracing new sonic adventures. As a live and studio guest he has shared stages with **Paul Weller**, **Paolo Nutini**, **Teenage Fanclub**, **Graham Coxon** and **Eddi Reader**. Since 2008, he has been a member of **Mark Knopfler's band**, playing arenas around the world including a double bill with Bob Dylan at The Hollywood Bowl and 20 nights at the Royal Albert Hall.

An expanding portfolio as a producer features debut albums by **Kris Drever** and Idlewild's **Roddy Woomble**. He's also manned the controls for top folk chanteuses **Eddi Reader**, **Heidi Talbot**, **Eliza Carthy** and **Linda Thompson**. Film and TV work includes soundtracks for the movie **Heartlands** (2002) and **16 Years of Alcohol** (2003), **Billy Connolly's World Tour of New Zealand** (2004), Jennifer Saunders BBC sitcom **Jam and Jerusalem** (2008) & **Starlings** sitcom for Sky TV (2012).

John was awarded the coveted **BBC Radio 2 Musician of the Year** in 2003 and also **The Spirit of Scotland Award** for music in 1999 and again in 2009. 2016 saw John receive the **Good Tradition Award** and perform with his band at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards at **The Royal Albert Hall**.

The John McCusker Band, featuring some of the finest traditional musicians including **Andy Cutting**, **Adam Holmes**, **Innes White** & **Toby Shaer**, will embark on an extensive UK tour in March/April 2017.