

# MATTHEW BYRNE

TRADITIONAL  
**SINGER**  
AND  
**GUITAR PLAYER**  
FROM  
ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND



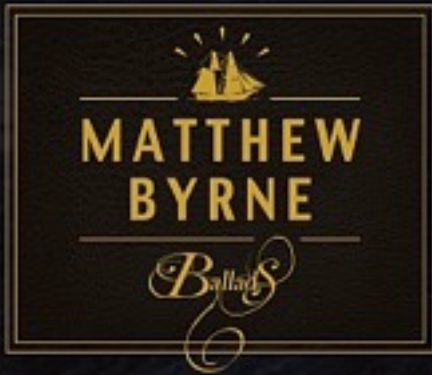
**Matthew Byrne** was born into a family of music makers from Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, and his repertoire is heavily influenced by this unique singing tradition. It is a tradition that thrives on the song - the weaving of a great story with a beautiful melody - and Matthew's music reminds us how satisfying traditional songs can be when stripped down to these basic elements. His live performance offers tasteful and honest interpretations of folk music delivered with polished guitar work and powerful vocals. His repertoire transcends time and place and offers a collection of traditional songs from both sides of the Atlantic.

In Spring 2010, Matthew released his first studio album, "Ballads" (produced by Billy Sutton), and has since gained considerable attention from the traditional music community. "Ballads" resulted in three MusicNL award nominations in Fall 2010: Album of the Year, Male Artist of the Year, and Rising Star New Artist/Group of the Year, as well as multiple showcasing opportunities at the 2011 East Coast Music Awards.

In addition to his solo work, Matthew is bouzouki player and vocalist for The Dardanelles - a young supergroup of traditional players from Newfoundland who've made quite a name for themselves throughout the North American folk festival circuit in only a few short years. Since his entry into the group in early 2010, Matthew has performed at a numerous notable venues including the Winnipeg Folk Festival, International Folk Alliance, and The Woodford Folk Festival in Queensland, Australia.

Visit [www.matthewbyrne.net](http://www.matthewbyrne.net) for news and schedule.





**BALLADS (2010)**

Produced by Billy Sutton

1. Banks of Newfoundland
2. Young Riley
3. Three Score and Ten
4. Banks of the Bann
5. Jack Ashton
6. Barque in the Harbour
7. Loss of the Schooner Maggie
8. Come Fare Away
9. Donald Monroe
10. Bonnie Light Horseman

*This album represents a repertoire of music rooted in a strong family tradition of singing and song-finding. Most of these songs were learned directly from family and friends while others I learned as part of a hereditary thirst for great songs. These ballads do not share common themes, people or places - they transcend old and new worlds and weave through love, loss, tragedy, treachery, hope, and happiness. What they do share, however, is the ability to combine a good story and a beautiful melody to produce something very satisfying.*



*“Matthew Byrne sings with a voice as true as a compass needle and is a dab hand on his instruments as well. His ‘Ballads’ is one of the finest english language traditional albums to come out in many a year.”*

— James Keelaghan

*“...a rich collection of story songs, beautifully performed, arranged and produced. A ‘must have’ album, a great young singer and a breath of hope for traditional song in Canada.”*

— Ian Robb, *Finest Kind*

*“Articulate and knowledgeable about his musical heritage, he is an old soul, adding a resonant, new voice to Newfoundland’s trad community.”*

— Jean Hewson, *Penguin Eggs*

*“His solo album completely blew me away...any track on the album is excellent.”*

— Devon Leger, *Hearth Music*

*“Traditional music can preserve and interpret history and identity through stories, and if you’re looking for a collection of songs by a young musician who is perfecting his craft of telling a good story through music, this album is a great one. And if you get the chance to see Matthew performing either solo or with The Dardanelles, I urge you to take it.”*

— Keith Collier, *The Independant*



Selected Performance History

- 2010 ▶  
Winnipeg Folk Festival\*  
Shelter Valley Folk Festival (Grafton, ON)\*  
Ontario Conference of Folk Festivals - Showcase\*  
East Coast Music Awards - Showcase
- 2011 ▶  
International Folk Alliance - Showcase\*  
Vancouver Folk Festival\*  
Stan Rogers Folk Festival (Canso, NS)  
Newfoundland & Labrador Folk Festival  
Winnipeg Irish Festival\*  
Woodford Folk Festival (Brisbane, AUS)\*
- 2012 ▶  
In the Dead of Winter Festival (Halifax, NS)  
March Hare Festival of Words & Music (NL)

\*w/ The Dardanelles



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