



Kevin Shay Johnson

www.kevinshayjohnson.com/music

booking: 503-654-7905

Folk singer/songwriter, Portland Oregon.

Kevin plays acoustic guitar and harmonica and sings folk, blues, and country. Some songs are originals, some are old favorites, and some are traditional.

"He plays songs in the key of light... Whether it's something by Woody Guthrie or Tom Waits or a song Johnson's written, when tossed out in the comforting frame of his deep voice and clean guitar work, the tunes seem impossible not to like. He's one of those lucky people who's doing exactly what he should be doing."

—Andy Parker, *The Oregonian*

Biography

Kevin Shay Johnson originally hails from Connecticut where, as a teenager, he and his friends taught themselves how to play guitar. He was a designated driver at Woodstock. True story, folks. In 1980 he rode his bicycle across the country to settle in Portland, Oregon, where he lives with his wife, daughter, and extended family. He's long been an active part of Portland's thriving folk music scene playing with The Whammadiddle Dingbats, Cascadia Folk Quartet, and Free Range. He plays solo at many of the area's farmers' markets.

In 2007 he released *Some Day Fly Away*, his first recording of all-original songs. Love, life, work, and longing frame the emotional canvas on which Kevin paints the stories of his life. Gritty, funny, poetic, and personal — an intimate listening experience, as if he's sitting in your kitchen playing these songs just for you. *Some Day Fly Away* also includes Alberta Hardy, violin and Jon Lindahl, slide and lead guitar on a couple of cuts.

Praise for *Some Day Fly Away*

"An honest and open voice. Very clever, very cool. My favorite song is *Working On My Love (for you)* which is tender without being sentimental. John Lennon taught us that 'warts' are OK to show to others and it takes courage to sing what is typically unsung. This is a very touching song."

—Marv Ross, producer, songwriter
Quarterflash, The Trail Band

"Kevin Shay Johnson was given the gift of a songwriter's pen. He listened well to his teachers; Cohen, Dylan & Prine, but ultimately it's all Kevin... Looking over his shoulder he takes aim with a gutsy, no frills, street smart, earthy voice you feel deep in the middle of your soul."

—Steve Einhorn, singer/performer with Kate Power
Quality Folk

Kevin also plays with:

Cascadia Folk Quartet

Lawrence Huntley: hammer dulcimer, bass; Mick Doherty: hammer dulcimer, bass, vocals; Kevin Shay Johnson: guitar, vocals, harmonica; Chip Cohen: fiddle.

"They combine a gorgeous, crystalline purity of sound with an affably warped sense of humor."

—John Foyston, *The Oregonian*

Free Range

Rick Meyers: banjo, mandolin, autoharp, musical saw, square dance calling; Kevin Shay Johnson: guitar, vocals, harmonica.

Discography

Some Day Fly Away — Kevin Shay Johnson, 2007

Slim's Almanac — Kevin Shay Johnson, 2002

Cascadia Folk Quartet — Cascadia Folk Quartet, 1996

Lucky! — The Whammadiddle Dingbats, 1989

Saturday At The Market — The Whammadiddle Dingbats, 1987

An Anachronism In His Own Time — Kevin Shay Johnson, 1984