



## Terry Kitchen *Rubies in the Dust*

Urban Campfire Productions  
60 Glendower Rd., Boston, MA 02131  
(617) 833-0631 [info@terrykitchen.com](mailto:info@terrykitchen.com)  
[www.terrykitchen.com](http://www.terrykitchen.com)  
@terrykit1  
[www.youtube.com/terrykitchensongs](http://www.youtube.com/terrykitchensongs)  
[www.facebook.com/terrykitchensongs](http://www.facebook.com/terrykitchensongs)

Boston contemporary folk singer/songwriter **Terry Kitchen** may be best known as an award-winning songwriter, but he is also a compelling interpreter and live performer. ***Rubies in the Dust*** collects some of Kitchen's best-loved covers, live tracks, and hard-to-find recordings, as well as collaborations with guest performers Barbara Kessler and Rebecca Lynch.

The performances on ***Rubies in the Dust***, though centered around Kitchen's intimate singing and fluid acoustic guitar, include a rich palette of musical textures, from Kitchen's own mandolin, autoharp and electric guitar work to Annie Raines' soulful harmonica ("Take Me Blues"), Jackie Damsky's crystalline violin ("Over the Christmas Moon") and Matt Darriau's playful clarinet ("20th Century Zoo"). Kitchen is also joined on harmony vocals by Amy Malkoff ("The Quiet Places"), Lucy Martinez ("Ruby Tuesday") and, in a sterling *a cappella* arrangement of The Beach Boys' "In My Room," Sarah Telford and Brice Buchanan. The live tracks, all recorded at ROM in Boston, feature pared-down arrangements which let the songs' spare poetry and vivid imagery speak for themselves. Kitchen even casts himself as accompanist and invites vocalists Barbara Kessler ("Snowflakes") and Rebecca Lynch ("Rain on the Roof") to re-interpret two of his most moving songs.

Kitchen, called "one of New England's best songwriters" by ***The Boston Globe***, has been performing on New England and national folk stages since the 1990s. His songs have won the USA and Mid-Atlantic song contests and been runner-up in the John Lennon song contest. ***Rubies in the Dust***, his eleventh solo collection, follows 2017's ***The Quiet Places***, which reached #22 on the Folk-DJ airplay chart, with its opening track "Enjoy It While It Lasts" #8 most played song. His 2015 CD ***The Post-American Century*** reached #19 on Folk-DJ.

Like its predecessors, this new collection is filled with Kitchen's distinctive guitar harmonics and rough-edged vocals, which make the covers his own, and his own songs resonate in the head and heart of each listener, shining like ***Rubies in the Dust***.

# About the SONGS on Terry Kitchen's *Rubies in the Dust*

**1. In My Room** I got to see Brian Wilson on his *Pet Sounds* tour. He sang, and spoke, without a trace of irony - all too unusual in today's world. "In My Room" remains a perfect song. With Sarah Telford and Brice Buchanan (from my '80s band *Loose Ties*) on harmony.

**2. Ruby Tuesday** Mick and Keith's prettiest song, originally recorded for the Rolling Stones tribute album *You Can't Always Want What You Get*. With Lucy Martinez on harmony.

**3. Nothing Works Better #3** I recorded a song called "Nothing Works Better" on my 2007 album *Heaven Here on Earth*, based on a John Lennon quote from a *Rolling Stone* interview he'd done. After the album was finished - but not yet released - I had the idea of listing all the crazy things love works better than, called it "Nothing Works Better #2" and stuck it on as a hidden cut. My friend Biff Kennedy liked the verses of #2 with the chorus of #1, and I've been performing it that way ever since.

**4. Over the Christmas Moon** Ideally, the holidays are a time of love and family. But for anyone estranged from their family, the holidays can make the hole feel that much larger. With Jackie Damsky on violin.

**5. The Quiet Places** (LIVE) Coaxing men to share their feelings is like fly fishing for trout - the slightest ripple and we get spooked and disappear into the depths. But please keep trying. With Amy Malkoff on harmony.

**6. Life Is Hard Enough** (LIVE) A couple real-life incidents - a stranger needing a jump start and a young family losing its mother to cancer - got me thinking about why we're here, and how we can help each other get through whatever life throws at us.

**7. Heaven Here on Earth** (LIVE) Every summer for the past twenty-five years I've performed at the Falcon Ridge Folk

Festival in New York. On the Sunday morning of the festival there's a gospel song swap, and it occurred to me that not everyone has the same ideas about God and religion, so what we needed was a good sing-along hymn for atheists and agnostics. Here you go.

**8. Take Me Blues** (LIVE) One of the sweet ironies of life is that singing the blues really does make you feel better. Good thing, too. With Annie Raines on harmonica and Ken Porter on percussion.

**9. Snowflakes** featuring **Barbara Kessler** Originally recorded for the *Our Finest Gifts* charity CD. Unfortunately, the issues of self-esteem, depression and drug abuse never seem to go away, and Barbara does a beautiful job of creating empathy with the character.

**10. Rain on the Roof** featuring **Rebecca Lynch** Becky and I sang together back at Occidental College in Los Angeles, and it was fun to discover we're both now in Boston. Her bluesy style is perfect for "Rain on the Roof." She also sings "Same Heart Twice" on the *Next Big Thing* songtrack album.

**11. 20th Century Zoo** An outtake from my very first album, circa 1990, written by my friend George Tocci. Unfortunately, time hasn't been kind to the master tape, but hopefully you can hear what a brilliant song it is through the wow and flutter. With Brice Buchanan and Barry Singer on harmony and Matt Darriau on clarinet.

**12. Knockin' On Heaven's Door** Anyone who has a problem with Bob Dylan winning the Nobel prize for literature should listen to pop music before "Blowin' in the Wind" (say, "How Much is that Doggy in the Window") and after (say, "A Day in the Life"). Any questions? Originally recorded for the tribute album *Dylanology*.