

# Terry Kitchen

performing songwriter

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## Terry Kitchen is a musical storyteller

Award-winning Boston contemporary folk singer/songwriter **Terry Kitchen** is a performing artist who's as much a storyteller as a musician. His keen eye for detail, fearless emotional honesty, and knowledge of and empathy for his subjects combine with his skills as a composer, singer and guitarist to take the listener on a journey to the heart of each song. Live, his engaging stage presence and ironic humor connect with every member of the audience. His latest CD is *summer to snowflakes*, released in early 2009.

*summer to snowflakes*, Kitchen's 9<sup>th</sup> solo CD, reflects the continued refinement of his songwriting skills. Opening cut "**Listening to Summer**" effortlessly evokes a small town summer evening, with cicadas mixing with the cheers of a baseball broadcast. A harder edges surfaces as "**Rainbow (in the Middle of the Night)**" vividly describes a young girl's encounter with a 1930s lynch mob. The autobiographical "**Audience of One**" recalls Kitchen's beginnings as a songwriter and life as a performer. The album also showcases his musical confidence and maturity—some stories are best told with just a guitar, while others inspire rich musical arrangements, such as the horns that grace "**The Last Straight Boy in Ptown**" or the reggae groove of "**Build a Bridge from Both Sides.**"

*summer to snowflakes* follows Kitchen's 2007 release, *heaven here on earth*, which reached #25 on the national Folk DJ airplay chart, 2004's ecological-themed *that's how it used to be* (which spent 3 months on Folk DJ, reaching #29), 2002's *Right Now* (#34 on Folk DJ), 1999's *blues for cain & abel* (a deeply personal collection of songs of doubt and faith), 1997's *blanket* (which was voted #21 best CD of that year by Folk Digest) and 1995's *I Own This Town*.

**Terry Kitchen** was born in Phillipsburg, New Jersey and grew up in the Easton-Bethlehem area of Pennsylvania. He moved to small town Findlay, Ohio for his high school years, then attended Occidental College (with Barack Obama) and the Guitar Institute of Technology, both in Los Angeles. He moved to Boston in 1982, where he played in the rock band Loose Ties (whose video "Last Time" was played on MTV exactly once) until 1988, when he decided acoustic music was the most natural setting for his distinctive narrative songwriting.

For the past twenty years he has performed on the New England and national folk scenes at clubs and coffeehouses including Club Passim and The Nameless Coffeehouse in Mass., The Postcrypt Coffeehouse and Cafe Lena in NY, Godfrey Daniels in PA and The Bluebird Cafe in Nashville, and at festivals including Falcon Ridge, the South Florida Folk Festival and the Telluride Bluegrass Festival. He's appeared in 18 states, including Texas, California and Alaska, and Canada.

**Terry Kitchen's** songs have won the **Grand Prize** in the **Mid-Atlantic Song Contest** and **First Place** in the **USA Songwriting Competition** and been **runner-up** in the **John Lennon Songwriting Contest**. His songs have been recorded by folk artists Barbara Kessler and Janet Feld and country singer Dale Alliare.

Richard Middleton of *Victory Review* says "Terry Kitchen's songs are portraits of ordinary people and emotions, captured with extraordinary compassion, honesty and humor. A talented writer." Jeff Pearson of the Bluebird Cafe says "Terry Kitchen is definitely a cut above with his eye for detail and unique song ideas. With a keen sense of melody, Terry's songs truly deliver and take the listener on an emotional ride!"

### HERE'S WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ...

"With narrative strengths that recall Jerry Jeff Walker, it is easy to understand why he has become such a popular performer."—**Folk Roots magazine**

"Terry Kitchen begins where Tom Waits and Elvis Costello merge and leave off."—**Vance Gilbert**

"One of New England's best songwriters."—**Craig Harris, Boston Globe**

### TERRY'S RECORDINGS

2009	<i>summer to snowflakes</i>
2007	<i>heaven here on earth</i>
2004	<i>that's how it used to be</i>
2002	<i>Right Now</i>
1999	<i>blues for cain &amp; abel</i>
1997	<i>blanket</i>
1995	<i>I Own This Town</i>