



Jim Schafer

**Acoustic Music from Northeast Ohio
Contemporary • Traditional • Original
Americana, Roots, Bluegrass, Trad. County and Blues**

FOR MORE INFO, BOOKINGS, OR CD SALES CONTACT:

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BIOGRAPHY

JIM SCHAFAER is a singer-songwriter-guitarist based in Elyria, Ohio. Schafer is a real troubadour who has been working festivals, concerts, clubs, colleges, radio, television and in the recording studio for over four decades. Whether as a solo act or working with his acoustic ensemble "JIM SCHAFAER & FRIENDS," Schafer always delivers an entertaining show. Musically, JIM SCHAFAER performs a repertoire of original and cover songs spanning Americana, Roots, Folk, Bluegrass, Traditional Country, Blues and Irish music genres.

JIM SCHAFAER's unique musical style mixes active acoustic guitar work with a voice known for its clarity and sensitivity. An accomplished songwriter, Schafer's songs are known for their melodic balance, lyrical insight and frequent humor. Listeners often comment on how easy it is for them to relate to his songs.

A backup band featuring RON THOMAS on electric bass, GARY PRUETT on 5-string banjo, and DAVID KRAUSS on harmonica adds instrumental depth to the mix, while two and three-part harmony vocals from the band add a pleasant fullness to the ensemble's sound. Noted violinist/fiddler PAUL BAKER sometimes adds his magic to the group. Newest addition to the stage ensemble is percussionist JOHN PIASCIK who uses his musical skills to reinforce the interesting rhythmic component of Schafer's songs.

JIM SCHAFAER's 2007 studio CD "Tell a Friend" contains 11 original and 2 traditional songs featuring and array of world-class musicians and singers from Northeast Ohio and was recorded at Suma Recording in Painesville, OH. by Schafer's close friend, legendary bassist and engineer PAUL HAMANN (1955-2017). Currently, Schafer is hard at work on another studio album featuring more of his original songs, including audience favorites "Hot!," "Thin!," "21st Century Middle-Aged Man," "Ego, We Go, I Go," and the intriguing waltz "Back To Basics."

JIM SCHAFAER is a session producer of other artists, too. His producer portfolio includes recent projects by The Smokin' Fez Monkeys, Gary Hall, Bob Sammon, Brand New Hat, Maura Rogers, John Parkinson, Gusti, with projects from past years by Shirley Jay, Alan Leatherwood, Hotfoot Quartet and Steve Cormier.

JIM SCHAFAER has been a hardworking advocate for the northeast Ohio acoustic music scene. In the late 1970s he was President of Red Horse Hollow, a non-profit acoustic music arts center and coffeehouse in Lakewood, Ohio. Later, in the 1980s and 1990s, Schafer served three terms on the board of FOLKNET. He produced two of their five acclaimed "Acoustic Harvest" CDs that featured local artists, reaffirming his commitment to supporting Northeast Ohio acoustic music and the Art of the Troubadour.

Additionally, JIM SCHAFAER is an accomplished creative pro in the areas of video production, audio/video post-production, DVD authoring, multimedia/website authoring and Flash development. Before retiring in 2015, his production firm SK Microsystems, Inc. was on the cutting edge of creative digital media production, and support for over 30 years in northeast Ohio and beyond.

On a personal level, JIM SCHAFAER likes Mossman guitars, Apple Macintosh computers, Troggs Dreamweaver beer, fly-fishing, his wife Kathy, his dog Belle, and Subaru automobiles...but not in that order of importance.

What People Are Saying about...

Jim Schafer

I have shared a stage with Jim Schafer, hauled equipment with him for open mics and gigs, been browbeaten by him in the studio on the way to making my CD as good as possible and I still like the guy. His songs are well-crafted, his ability to entertain is boundless and I haven't met many other people with his devotion to the music that touches us through a commonality of emotion and experience.

I have come to respect Schafer's talent as a musician - and for his love and care of the musical tradition he carries on. Jim's original music is the result of years of study of the folk genre and embodies the best of what he has learned from every form of music he's been exposed to.

His CD is an example of how skill and persistence combine with talent to create a wonderful work of art. His ability to entertain is boundless and he touches us through a commonality of emotion and experience.

**Bob Sammon, singer/songwriter
& editor "Monday Music Missive"**

His songs are highly intelligent yet invitingly accessible. They touch our emotions. But expect some humor at a Jim Schafer concert. It's a lot like the game that's in the spine of Jim's recent CD release - we come for the music, but we get something more.

**Jane Kowall, award-winning songwriter
(and occasional Schafer collaborator)**

I've always admired that amazing guitar technique...

Gusti, legendary Cleveland folksinger

Jim Schafer is an accomplished musician and songwriter, his no nonsense approach to music is an asset to all writers and musicians. He has honed his act through hard practice and diligent work. I have been his opening act in the past and would be honored to do it again if he requests me to do so. .

Larry Ketola, singer-songwriter

Many of our friends who had not heard of him before, thought Jim Schafer was brilliant and wondered where they could buy his music. I am sure he will get a great fan base here in Ireland as his music becomes more known.

**Esther & Brendan Barry,
Carrigtwohill, County Cork, Ireland**

Jim Schafer is a singer/songwriter who touches your soul. He musically takes you to places that you'd love to be. As a performer, I wish I had the songwriting and guitar playing abilities of Mr. Schafer.

Jim is one of the finest singer/songwriters to be trapped in Cleveland. He deserves far more attention."

Richard Greer, 107.3 FM The Wave

Cleveland has so many great local musicians that it's hard to find one who really stands out. But we found one and his name is Jim Schafer.

Carl Hunt, WRUW-FM, on-air comment

I've had Jim Schafer open for some big national acts at The Winchester Music Hall in Cleveland, like Commander Cody and Roy Book Binder. He comes through every time. He's a real pro.

I've also seen Jim in an outdoor festival setting and in that environment he really shines. As a patron of my bar, he's my favorite curmudgeon."

**Jim Mileti, owner,
The Winchester Music Hall, Cleveland, Ohio**

Jim Schafer's "All We Have Is Time" is a good example of a song that when I listen to it I get so lost in the tones of the guitar and the beautifully sung lyrics, that I find it hard to imagine this song as being recorded in a studio. Instead it almost sounds like Jim recorded this song somewhere on a mountain in Colorado.

Brian Sapp, singer-songwriter

Jim has a very personal (and personable) vocal style which makes you think he's telling you a story that happens to rhyme. As a guitarist, Jim is adept at both fingerstyle and flatpicking with a knack for making the guitar an integral part of the song.

I don't know of anyone who has more fun performing than Jim Schafer. I don't know anyone who is more concerned about the quality of a performance. He is an artist who should be heard by a much wider audience.

Ron Thomas, bassist and recording artist

**For bookings or to learn more about
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