

James Gordon

“This fine Canadian songwriter is still on a roll. A mature, astute observer of the human heart in all its conditions. Unhurried personal narratives that anyone can share—song writing on a conversational scale with universal relevance.”

Rock and Reel Review



James Gordon has had a remarkably diverse 40-year career in the Canadian entertainment business. As a solo singer-songwriter and with the ground-breaking trio *Tamarack*, he has released over forty albums and has toured relentlessly around the world. Gordon has written for symphony orchestras, musical theatre and dance works, film scores, and for more than ten years was heard on CBC radio as songwriter-in-residence for the *Basic Black* and *Ontario Morning* programs.

His song *Mining for Gold* was featured in the John Sayles film *Silver City* and was included on the classic *Cowboy Junkies* album *The Trinity Sessions*. Gordon’s classic *Frobisher Bay* has been recorded by more than 100 different artists world-wide, has become a standard in choirs everywhere, and is in *Rise Again*, the sequel to the legendary *Rise Up Singing* songbook. Well known for his songs about social justice, heritage and environmental issues, he toured for two years with his

hugely successful political theatre piece *Stephen Harper: The Musical*. The full-length folk-opera *Hardscrabble Road* debuted live in the fall of 2003 and proved to be one of his most ambitious works. Gordon has produced CDs for many Canadian folk artists, and his popular ‘Rhyme Capsules’ song writing-in-the-schools project (through which he has facilitated over 1500 song writing workshops) has resulted in over two dozen CDs of songs by young composers. He has recently toured in Great Britain, Cambodia, Vietnam, Japan, and across North America. He’s often touring as *James Gordon & Sons* with his musician sons Evan and Geordie.

In spring of 2019 James released *The Heritage Hall Sessions* on Borealis Records. Full of timely material, ‘Heritage Hall’ addresses climate change, the artistic value gap, and peak oil with sensitivity and wit. Produced by Evan Gordon, the album was tracked live off the floor in the eponymous hall with a stellar cast of players: Jeff Bird (Cowboy Junkies, Townes Van Zandt), Katherine Wheatley, Anne Lindsay (Jim Cuddy Band), Tannis Slimmon, and Ian Bell.

In 2009 BerLen Music published *The Pipe Street Songbook*, an anthology of his 50 most loved songs. Between tours, James is a record producer, playwright, community activist, Guelph City Councillor, and theatre director. www.jamesgordon.ca

