

## WHO IS FINLAY MORTON?

Singer-songwriter **Finlay Morton** was born in Aberdeen and taught himself to play his older brother's Epiphone guitar at the tender age of ten. His influences are varied, ranging from blues players Sonny Terry with Brownie McGee, to Scottish folk act The Corries, to the classic sounds of Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Neil Young, Johnny Cash, Gram Parsons and Tom Petty. At 18, he packed up his guitar and moved to London to play in a band. Whilst playing in various bands, Morton also worked as a sound engineer, including working in Downing Street as official sound engineer.

In 2004 Morton had a chance meeting with producer Pip Williams (Moody Blues, Status Quo) which resulted in his first self-penned album *Interpret This*, released in 2006. Two singles went to radio with resulting airplay on regional radio stations throughout the UK along with a successful acoustic tour with guitarist Greg Bone.

In 2008, Finlay began working on his second album *Back to Basics* at Wendyhouse Studios in West London. In the midst of the mixing, Finlay suffered a heart attack. Thanks to speedy medical attention, Morton was back to work in only a few days. His first single "Scary Monsters" was released later that year with more radio support. Legendary Los Angeles-based producer John Ryan (Santana, Smashing Pumpkins) heard the song and offered to remix the album for Finlay. Morton jumped at such an opportunity, sending his masters to Ryan and *Back to Basics 2009* was made. The first single "The Devil Ain't Getting My Soul" has garnered airplay throughout the U.K. and U.S.

With comparisons to JJ Cale, early Joe Cocker and Chris Rea, Finlay Morton combines folk, rock, and blues with a mesmerizing helping of gospel and some country grandeur, to provide a haunting and compelling backdrop for his tales of pain, loss and mortality that are eased by his natural bittersweet humour.

Morton continues his musical journey with the release of *Harvest The Wind*. During his first U.S. tour, he visited KTAO in Taos, NM which is 100% powered by solar energy. This greatly intrigued the musician who was already very keen on alternative energy sources. On another visit to Boulder, Colorado he met Keith Bare who runs a website ([wind4me.com](http://wind4me.com)) devoted to the promotion of wind and solar power. Thus, the lyric from the lead track (also the album's title) to "Hoist up your solar sails" was birthed in the States.

The first single from *Harvest The Wind* is titled "Do You Believe In Ghosts" scheduled for release on 28<sup>th</sup> October in time for Halloween, and features guitar work from Steve Hackett of Genesis. Other standouts include "Chasing The American Dream", the countrified "Babe You Can't Have My Guitar", and the rocky "Don't Cry For Corporate America". Morton's vocals possess a whispery mystique which imparts a warm familiar sensibility which nods to his influences but is not derivative.

For the *Harvest The Wind* bass guitarist Jon Noyce who had previously played with Gary Moore joined the band. Morton worked on arrangements with guitarist Greg Bone (according to Finlay, Tom Petty has Mike Campbell, and he has Greg Bone!) several weeks before the recording sessions, and they opted for a more "hands on" feel for the record. They hired Robin Black, with whom Greg had worked before and his credits include engineering acts including Cream, and Eric Clapton at Abbey Road studios in London, the engineering of Paul McCartney's first solo album. There were two main recording sessions, with a break of one week in between. Tragically, Robin's son, Will, was killed in a yachting accident during that break. Somewhat heroically, Robin didn't tell Morton of this until after the record was mixed,

so that it didn't impact on "the vibe," and the album is dedicated to the memory of Will, even though they never met. Morton still finds it difficult to come to terms with the professionalism that Robin showed at a time of extraordinary grief.

The album's final mix has been done by Adrian Hall, a producer and engineer who has worked on recordings with many big artists including Alicia Keys, Ray Davies, Simply Red to name a few.

*Harvest The Wind* is a perfect introduction for this relatively new yet classic sounding artist with music and a message that is perfectly on track for current times.