

Terry Kitchen

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performing songwriter



Terry Kitchen is not just a musical storyteller.

Award-winning Boston contemporary folk singer/songwriter **Terry Kitchen** is a captivating musical storyteller, with his tales of ordinary people facing life's myriad challenges with extraordinary grace, strength and dignity. But he's just as interested in *why* we do what we do – the story behind the story. His keen eye for detail, fearless emotional honesty, and deep empathy for his subjects combine with his skills as a singer, composer, and guitarist to take the listener on a journey deep inside the human heart, with all its passions and contradictions.

Kitchen's latest CD *The Quiet Places* includes eleven new takes on our emotional state, from celebrating the small-but-important victories ("Enjoy It While It Lasts"), to keeping faith in our current hard times ("Seeds"), to coming to terms with our darkest failures (the harrowing child abuse ballad "The Kid Behind the Wall"). Also included is Kitchen's update of the '60s environmental anthem "Nature's Way," because the state of the heart becomes irrelevant if we kill the planet first. The CD debuted at #22 on the Folk-DJ chart in October 2017 with "Enjoy" #8 most played song. A video of "Nature's Way" is also on youtube.

The Quiet Places follows Kitchen's 2015 CD *The Post-American Century*, which reached #19 on Folk-DJ, and the new album again features an array of talents augmenting Kitchen's intimate voice and guitar. Singers include **Mara Levine** ("Enjoy It While It Lasts," "Seeds"), **Amy Malkoff** ("The Quiet Places"), **Rebecca Lynch** ("She's Already Cried") and **Deirdre Bergeron** ("It's OK to Be Afraid") while players include **Bob Harris**, who played with Johnny Cash and Vassar Clements (mandolin), **Roger Williams** (Dobro) and **Sam Dechenne** (the smoky trumpet solo on "Jericho"). Stylistically, Kitchen ranges from uptempo bluegrass to classic Seeger-esque folk to hushed confessional, and he even incorporates jazz and swing rhythms into the flow. Kitchen's songcraft is laser sharp as he gets inside his characters in the space of a few lines, whether the boy-to-soldier transition of "It's OK to Be Afraid" or the jaded wandering minstrel of "The Bar Harbor Full Sail Downeast Acadia Windjammer Sunset Cruise." In concert, Kitchen's quietly engaging stage presence and ironic humor set audiences at ease despite the intensity of his subjects.

Terry Kitchen grew up in Easton, PA on the music of the 1960s before moving to Ohio in the '70s. He attended Occidental College in LA (with Barack Obama), then moved to Boston where he played in the '80s rock band Loose Ties before deciding folk music was the most natural setting for his distinctive narrative songwriting. His rock band days are recounted in his 2013 novel *Next Big Thing*, which was called "a great debut novel" by the *San Francisco Book Review*.

For the past twenty-five years **Kitchen** has performed on the New England and national folk scenes at clubs and coffeehouses including Club Passim, the Nameless Coffeehouse and the Somerville Armory in Mass., the Postcrypt Coffeehouse, People's Voice Cafe 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, VT Solarfest, and the Telluride Bluegrass Festival. He's appeared in over 20 states, including Texas, California and Alaska, and Canada. He's released ten CDs, and his songs have appeared in numerous films. His songs have won the **Mid-Atlantic** and **USA** song contests and been **runner-up** in the **John Lennon** and **Family Folk Chorale** song contests and been recorded by Barbara Kessler, Andrew Dunn, Mara Levine and Janet Feld.

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 Kitchen's songs deftly reveal the human heart in all its grace and contradictions."—**Si Kahn**

TERRY'S RECORDINGS

2017	<i>The Quiet Places</i>
2015	<i>The Post-American Century</i>
2012	<i>Terry Kitchen & Mara Levine</i>
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 & abel</i>
1997	<i>blanket</i>
1995	<i>I Own This Town</i>