

Kevin James

country blues

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He makes his living as a carpenter and has traveled a good part of North America in a Ford pickup truck. On one of his sojourns, he spent five months in Mexico, working odd jobs to pay his way. He's lived his entire life in Worcester, Mass., a blue-collar town. So Kevin James, the singer-songwriter, is just about what you might expect.

Down to earth. Honest. Proud.

And so is his music. He writes about his travels, experiences and unique view of life. "In some ways, it's a familiar story," says James, who sings and plays acoustic guitar, "but I'm telling it in my own way, in a way that only I could. I'm not trying to write hit songs. I'm trying to be honest and get things across that are important to me."

His new CD, *Milemarker*, is a collection of songs that were written in the past decade, reflecting on his life, both on and off the highway.

(Wood)working off his CD expenses

Working with a group of friends that included producer Bob Jordan and engineer Steve Blake, *Milemarker* came together quickly in the summer of 2009. James paid for some of the CD with cash but to cover most of the expenses, he bartered his carpentry skills. In August, he packed the house for a CD release show at WCUW-FM, a community station in Worcester, and his re-invented music career was off and running.

James describes his songs as "soul country" and they are, in fact, a gritty combination of blues, country, folk and rock. One his favorites from the CD is "Wonderbar," a musical collection of the conversations he's had at Worcester's Wonder Bar Restaurant over the years. The eatery, a local landmark for several decades, still has juke boxes at each table. "Ain't my life like this juke box," he says in the song. "So old, so cool and broke."



Milemarker airplay

National Public Radio	
WICN	Worcester
WCUW	Worcester
WSCW	Worcester
WXIN	Providence, R.I.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ...

'The finger-plucked acoustic riffs, serene slide leads, and gentle harmonica melodies should appeal to even the most critical folk fan, as will his compassionate tales.'

Worcester Magazine

'Kevin is a new voice to many, but he's really an old soul traveling the Americana highway with a powerful set of songs.'

**Troy Tyree
WCUW-FM**

'Kevin James is truly Americana. His tunes make you feel like you're in a pickup truck heading someplace warm, with the windows rolled down and the wind in your hair.'

**Danielle Miraglia
Nationally touring folksinger**

Truckin'

There's also "Deathtrap Baby," an ode to his 1986 Ford pickup ("No worries, honey, the truck knows where I live"), which has been aired on NPR's *Car Talk*. "Moon Song" is a tale of reflection and mysticism about our closest heavenly body ("Tell me what's in the moon tonight, tell me what do you see").

Fittingly, the CD wraps up with "Almost Home," a song of road weariness and the warm feelings of returning from a long trip: "It's almost true that I'm almost home with you."

James got his musical start playing in a garage band while at Worcester's Doherty High. He bought an acoustic guitar a few years later and has been cranking out songs ever since. James frequently performs as the front man in a trio that includes guitarist Jeff Sohigian and vocalist Molly Green.