

Introducing
Mike Silver

Songwriter • Guitarist • Singer • Entertainer

Some treasures lay undiscovered for many years.

BOB Harris (BBC Radio2)



Mike was born on a farm in Uffington, Berkshire, in September 1945. His family moved north of London when he was 2 where he lived until the age of 11. His introduction to early fifties pop music came through the mixed tastes of three elder brothers, artists such as, Buddy Holly, Elvis Presley, the Everly Brothers, Lonnie Donegan, The Chas McDevitt Skiffle Group, Slim Whitman, Phil Harris, Connie Francis and many more. At the age of nine, he discovered a guitar at home one Sunday morning that one of his brother's friends had left behind the night before. Five minutes across his knee, before it was removed by parental command, was all it took; he was hooked for life! Eventually, the Christmas after Mike was 14; his parents caved in and bought him his first guitar. To date, many reviewers have mistakenly thought that Mike underwent classical vocal training. Mike is self taught, the sum of his musical tuition, apart from a music teacher at school, who (Mike would tell you) saw his main role in life as

one of putting pupils off music rather than becoming involved in it, is three guitar lessons at the age of 16 from a teacher in Croydon and three years later, two sessions with a chap named Gurney, from Whitstable in Kent, who showed Mike the rudiments of claw hammer finger-style guitar!

"Being able to play music is like having my birthday every day. The size of the audience is irrelevant, 1000 people, 100 or 10 it's still the same, it's an exchange of feelings and emotions. Then, sometimes, there is that frisson that ripples through them in the very few seconds between the end of the song and the beginning of their applause: it's like an earthquake in your heart."

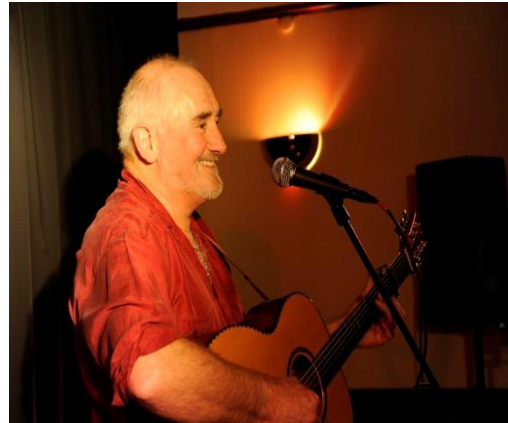
The craft of song writing with such sensitivity is not honed overnight. Mike has over 40 years of experience as a writer, singer, guitarist and live performer and has been enjoying a quiet success story throughout the UK and in various territories around the world; his songs give expression to authentic human emotions without becoming sentimental. Signed to Elton John's Rocket Records in 1973, Silver toured the USA with the likes of **Dory Previn**, and **Ashford and Simpson** and has worked as a studio musician and backing vocalist with **Charles Aznavour**, **Chris de Burgh**, **Ralph McTell**, **Ray Thomas** (Moody Blues) and many more. His

ability to write and perform songs, which transcend many guitar and musical styles, was recognised by **Justin Hayward** who recorded Mike's song, "Maybe It's Just Love" on his solo album *Night Flight*. During his time under contract to Rocket he actually had a chance encounter with John Lennon – ask him what they discussed and he will tell you "Liverpool FC"! Mike has been a supporter since childhood as was Lennon!

Mike is a consummate guitarist and always catches his audiences by surprise with that little extra bit of dexterity, just when they least expect it. His voice is full and crystal clear and his skill with an audience is outstanding. He is in a class of his own when it comes to writing and performing, and his ability in the arrangement of the compositions of other writers is remarkable, making them all his own in the process. He makes audience involvement an art form, it's because of the songs and the way he delivers them; people just can't resist the opportunity to take part in his music.

The release of "How Many Rivers" brings the number of albums to 16. "...Rivers" is yet another collection of finely crafted songs offering ballads, a little blues here and there and a distinct but not overpowering taste of country as well.

From artists on main stage to those taking their turn in back room pub sessions, people sing Mike's songs in clubs and at festivals all over the UK and in Europe too. Mike Silver's songs are of longing, love and loss, perceptive and thoughtful, with haunting melodies and heart stopping lyrics. This most accomplished acoustic artist sings and records a series of thoughts and feelings that are special and magical. Yet his music addresses every day issues without being trite, reaching out to a wide audience. With a voice



that is as warm and inviting as the fire in the fireplace on a cold winter's night, Mike is an outstanding treasure amidst the crowd. Recommended to all who thrive on the sensitivity of our existence; all in all he's a wonderful musician. A colleague said, "Mike possesses that unique ability to sing and play the guitar in a way that combines the two to form a sublime musical entity". The truth is a powerful thing, after seeing and hearing Mike perform for the first time one fan, among so many who have written in said, "I will never forget that evening at Hitchin. I didn't expect to find heaven in The Sun Hotel". Variousy reminiscent of James Taylor, Phil Collins, even Sting, Silver matches the talent of his better known peers; his beautifully restrained delivery is especially noteworthy. Silver produces the goods - something that will come as no surprise to his loyal fans. For anyone else, if songwriters who can really sing and play are your thing, discover Silver with haste.

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