



This is a print out of David Ross Macdonald's Sonicbids EPK™ (Electronic Press Kit). For a complete EPK including audio, photos, and up-to-date calendar visit: <http://www.sonicbids.com/DavidRossMacdonald>



## David Ross Macdonald

**Primary Genre:** Singer/Songwriter  
**Secondary Genre:** Americana  
**Contact Name:** David Ross Macdonald  
**Email:** [dave@davidrossmacdonald.com](mailto:dave@davidrossmacdonald.com)

Darkly soulful and bitter sweet acoustic folk songs that draw upon the songsmith worlds of Drake, Dylan and Springsteen with haunting fingerstyle guitar.

## Artist Information

### Biography

#### PULL QUOTES

"[David Ross Macdonald] is one of those few songwriters like Nick Drake, Conor Oberst (Bright Eyes), and Josh Ritter that can captivate his listeners armed only with a voice and guitar." American Songwriter Magazine

"David Ross MacDonald's vocals, lyrics, and intricate fingerstyle guitar playing bring to mind a collaboration between Nick Drake and a mid-1970s Bruce Cockburn..." Acoustic Guitar Magazine

"...deft guitar playing ... polished songwriting ... pristine, thoughtful folk rock..." Penguin Eggs Magazine

The glowing review excerpts above won't surprise anyone who has heard David Ross MacDonald's three CDs or seen him perform at international festivals including Australia's Woodford, Port Fairy, Apollo Bay and National as well as Canadian events including the Mariposa, Edmonton, Stan Rogers, Stewart Park, Live from Red Rock and Ness Creek Festivals.

SHORT BIO - David Ross Macdonald - Australia- folk/roots/americana

Acoustic Guitar Magazine likened MacDonald's vocals, lyrics, and intricate fingerstyle guitar style to "a collaboration between Nick Drake and a mid-1970s Bruce Cockburn".

Ross deals in subtlety, intimacy and nuance with a tunesmith's hand that coins songs and music with a haunting and poignant quality.

Born of a jazz musician father he returned to his musical roots after some years underground as a geologist and now plies his trade not only as an internationally touring songwriter but also as a jazz turned folk-roots drummer for the acclaimed Australian group The Waifs.

Having played with and opened for such luminaries including John Renbourne, Tony McMannus, Kelly Jo Phelps and Chris Smither, Macdonald constantly tours internationally armed with his 1935 Gibson guitar and a carpet bag of songs that he illuminates in his own inimitably reserved yet intense, poetic style.

#### ABOUT HIS CD RELEASES

On his 2004 release, *Far From Here*, MacDonald revealed his skills as a singer/songwriter. Acoustic Guitar described MacDonald's originals as "evocative songs with a haunting, poignant quality" while *Sing Out* magazine enthused over these "thoughtful songs from a pretty damn good guitarist" and compared MacDonald's voice to that of "a young Bruce Springsteen."

MacDonald released *Knuckled Brass and Bone* in 2006 and debuted many of the CD's songs to

fans while appearing as an opening act for Kelly Joe Phelps in the summer of that year. In a review of the album, the Canadian folk music magazine Penguin Eggs lauded MacDonald's "deft guitar playing" and "polished song writing", and referred to his music as "pristine, thoughtful Folk Rock".

What may be news to some is that MacDonald's other gig is not as a guitarist/ singer/songwriter but as the drummer for the Australian folk group, The Waifs, with whom he has performed all over the world since 1998.

Through 2008 Macdonald has been performing internationally at festivals including Port Fairy (VIC), Yackandandah (VIC), Mariposa Folk Festival (ON), Live from the Rock (ON), Stewart Park Festival (ON), Sunshine Festival (BC), Sisters Folk Festival (OR) and the OCFE in Ottawa.

Be sure to check out his live performances as seen on Youtube.com by following the link:

[http://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=david+ross+macdonald&search\\_type=&aq=f](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=david+ross+macdonald&search_type=&aq=f)

## Instrumentation

David Ross Macdonald - Darkly Soulful Acoustic Folk

## Discography

2000 Strings & Fingers (Indi)

2002 Southern Crossing (Indi)

2004 Far From Here (Pepper Tree Records)

2006 Knuckled Brass and Bone (Pepper Tree Records)

## Links

<http://www.myspace.com/davidrossmacdonald>

Agent - Todd Jordan - Paquin: <http://www.paquinentertainment.com>

Dave's Home Website: <http://www.davidrossmacdonald.com>

Dave's Live Performance Videos on YOUTUBE: [http://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=david+ross+macdonald&search=Search](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=david+ross+macdonald&search=Search)

Dave's CDBABY Page: <http://www.cdbaby.com/all/davidrossmacdonald>

---

## Press Reviews

### David Ross Macdonald

#### American Songwriter

Macdonald is one of those few singer/songwriters like Nick Drake, Conor Oberst (Bright Eyes) and Josh Ritter that can captivate his listeners armed only with a voice and guitar.

The former drummer of Australian folk band The Waifs, Macdonald turned to finger-picking and delicate guitar stylings with his 2003 solo debut Southern Crossing. This latest U.S. release is a mix of tracks taken from Southern Crossing, his 2004 release

Far From Here, as well as four new tracks. From the narrative "Old Joes Cane" to "Draw Me In" , in which Antonio Banderas is probably itching to cover, Macdonald's honest songwriting and charming voice may win him some notoriety in the world of folk.

Evan James

### Knuckled Brass and Bone

#### Acoustic Guitar Magazine

Excerpted from Acoustic Guitar magazine, February 2007, No.170

The title of David Ross MacDonald's latest release, Knuckled Brass and Bone, comes from a line

in the song "Old Joe's Cane." By the end of the song, it's hard to tell where old Joe stops and the cane begins; both are made from the same stuff, "knuckled" brass and bone. The same could be said of MacDonald (who plays drums for the popular folk-rock band the Waifs) and his guitar. This marvelous Australian fingerpicking guitarist's instrument is an extension of his voice, singing his appealingly emotional songs right along with him. Sometimes the guitar line doubles the vocal melody, sometimes it adds suspension and dissonance or a rhythmic counterpoint, but in every case, it seems more like a partner than a tool. These songs have a spare poetry about them, a gentle and knowing presence, whether they tend more toward haiku—"Paper crane, my paper crane / With wings so frail, wings so frail / You want to fly, fly away" ("Paper Crane")—or toward a dark and driven lament—"Forgive forget forever more, from your rib remove a thorn and take her picture off the wall / ... Easier said than done" ("Easier Said"). The band on Knuckled Brass and Bone adds shade and rhythmic lift, but leaves the acoustic guitar to define the album's sound. And when MacDonald does his achingly lean version of Australia's national song, "Waltzing Matilda," you could swear you hear the acoustic guitar echo the easy gait of MacDonald's own Aussie-accented voice.

By Judith Edelman  
(Pepper Tree Records, [www.davidrossmacdonald.com](http://www.davidrossmacdonald.com))

### **David Ross Macdonald, CKUA Radio Live CKUA Radio Broadcast**

"I sat outside the control room mesmerized while he played... here's a guy who's definately got it.. I've become a big fan of his ever since.. glad to have found his music..."

Radio CKUA Alberta Canada 13/9/04 David Ward 'How I Hear It'

### **David Ross Macdonald, Radio KALW KALW RADIO, San Francisco**

'Got it! Listened to it! Love it! I am gonna play it!'

Kevin Vance  
KALW RADIO, San Francisco (June '06)

### **David Ross MacDonald, Knuckeld Brass and Bone Vue Weekly - Canada**

On the cover of Knuckled Brass and Bone, singer-songwriter David Ross Macdonald's third album, is a scratchboard illustration by Edmonton artist Jordanna Rachinsky. A portrait of Macdonald, the work is pensive and soulful. It is also exquisitely beautiful showing a lovingly hand-crafted technique that may even be a bit folksy.

Fortuitously, that also quite succinctly describes the nine songs comprising Macdonald's latest effort. While he is currently best known as the drummer for the Waifs, it would be no surprise if his unique fingerstyle guitar and simple arrangements soon draws the audience it deserves and commands.

Lyricaly, his material draws from a rich and eclectic personal history, ranging from being a uranium mine geologist in a previous life in Australia to opening for Bob freakin' Dylan with the Waifs to his current incarnation as roots-and-soulster. His songs range from poetically sanguine to bitter sweet, reminiscent of Iron and Wine or Jack Johnson.

With ties to the Edmonton community, Macdonald could easily become a cornerstone of our emerging music scene. Let's hope he finds enough support here to continue to showcase his exceptional talent - with albums like this one, there is little doubt he will.

Joel Kelly  
[joel@veuweekly.com](mailto:joel@veuweekly.com)  
No: 561 July 20, 2006

### **CKUA Radio, Alberta, Canada Tom Coxworth - DJ, Folk Routes**

'... that it feels that he has captured the spirit of Donovan and Nick Drake - while still being individual in style ... one of my favourite new singer/songwriter albums of 2006'

Tom Coxworth - DJ, Folk Routes  
CKUA Radio, Alberta, Canada

## **David Ross Macdonald, Far from Here** **Acoustic Guitar Magazine**

Best known as the drummer for the Australian folk group the Waifs, David Ross MacDonald revealed a different side of his musical persona on his 2003 debut solo album, *Southern Crossing*, a collection of original fingerstyle guitar instrumentals.

His most recent album is a further revelation, showcasing his substantial skills as a singer-songwriter. MacDonald's vocals, lyrics, and intricate fingerstyle guitar playing bring to mind a collaboration between Nick Drake and a mid-1970s Bruce Cockburn. Like the latter, MacDonald's well-constructed songs often use imagery drawn from nature—oceans and forests, in particular—but unlike Cockburn, MacDonald occasionally portrays the natural world as an unpredictable and potentially threatening realm. In "The Pearl," an epic tale of two pearl-diving brothers ends in tragedy, and in "Cannery Row," seven lives are lost to an ocean storm.

Ross' lyrics are dark and thoughtful, and in combination with his hypnotic fingerstyle guitar work, they create evocative songs with a haunting, poignant quality.

By Ron Forbes-Roberts  
Acoustic Guitar Magazine : Nov 2004

## **David Ross Macdonald, Southern Crossing** **Australian National Radio**

Listen up you lovers of finger style steel string guitar! Imagine traveling about Australia visiting 12 favourite luthiers and recording, on guitars they have built, twelve of your original tunes for an album. The results would be stunning if you could play and write like David Ross Macdonald.

*Southern Crossing* is an accomplished acoustic album for those who love guitar, and I would imagine for those who build guitars. The pieces are for the most part contemplative, the sort of music guitarists manage late in a successful lone session when they're in a groove and smiling inwardly, broadly.

David Ross Macdonald, who amazingly doubles as The Waif's drummer, demonstrates a light touch and a sure feel for the dynamics of guitar playing. Open tunings on the guitar lend themselves to the types of sweet melodies Macdonald creates and of course he's playing some damn fine guitars.

David Churchill, Rad, Gerard Gilet, Greg Beeton, Tim Wright, Scott Wise, David Worthy, Jack Spira, Dan Dubowski, John McGrath, Bryan DeGruchy, and Jim Redgate are the luthiers celebrated. All of the guitars are wooden bodied steel strings except for Greg Beeton's brass-bodied resonator (which is owned by Jeff Lang).

It's tempting to try to compare the guitars on the album but that would only be possible I suppose if Macdonald played the same tune on each – which would be awfully boring for most listeners, so we'll just have to say that they all sound terrific. And how things have changed in the recording department. Macdonald carried with him a couple of mikes, a laptop computer and some nifty software. He didn't even have to bring a guitar. (David chooses to use a Churchill guitar, as does Jeff Lang.)

He recorded the album in various friendly lounge rooms, kitchens and workshops, often in the presence of the maker of the guitar. Bliss for everyone.

- Steve Baker

Country of Origin: Australia  
Music Genre: Chamber/Instrumental

We rate it: 4/5 stars  
 David Ross Macdonald - Southern Crossing  
 Date of Review: Wednesday, 17 December 2003

## **David Ross Macdonald, Southern Crossing Dirty Linen**

David Ross Macdonald is the drummer for the Waifs, but on this recording, sub-titled "A Celebration of Australian Handcrafted Guitars", he displays his talent for playing the acoustic guitar.

Macdonald travelled to 12 different craftsmen and recorded a solo instrumental track with a handmade guitar from each. While containing a wealth of information about the guitar makers that's probably more useful to one living in Australia, it works on a musical level as well.

Macdonald proves to be a gifted guitarist and composer, and the tracks flow smoothly and have a strong melodic structure. An engaging and enjoyable recording. (JLe)

Dirty Linen #103 Dec'02/Jan'03

## **David Ross Macdonald, Far from Here Sing Out!**

Thoughtful songs in simple arrangements (mostly solo guitar and vocal) from a pretty damn good guitarist.

With a voice like a young Bruce Springsteen, Macdonald offers the wistful "Shoulders Brown", about missing someone and the sinister sounding "Draw Me In".

The instrumental "Bela Flak!" is a highlight, with blazing finger-picking and some very cool harmonics. - JA

Sing Out!  
 Winter 2006  
 Vol 49 #4

---

## **Setlist**

'Til I'm Gone  
 Old Joes Cane  
 Paper Crane  
 Ragabilly Rag  
 Live For Ever  
 Tri Continental  
 Upon The Saw  
 Who Have A Dream  
 Pepper Tree  
 Shoulders Brown  
 Draw Me In  
 Gibson Blues  
 Easier Said  
 The Pearl  
 Time To Leave  
 Waltzing Matilda  
 Ragabilly Rag

---

## **Basic Requirements**

1 Mic  
 1 DI