

Singer-Songwriter PHIL HENRY
and the PHIL HENRY ACOUSTIC TRIO

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

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Phil Henry is the breath of fresh air needed to keep a modern folk music scene alive. Rather than penning songs of exploitation, self-confession or heart ache, Henry harks from a tradition of musicians as story-tellers. His knack for creating lifelike characters, vivid scenes and distinctive places has been described as “cinematic.”

And he's also not afraid to write folk that rocks. The addition of Gary Moon on hand percussion and Jeff Kimball, who plays a half dozen instruments including mandolin, piano, and accordion, ably fill out Henry's “soundtrack.” The trio has been playing together for about 10 years, but go back further as collaborators and friends. Neither Moon nor Kimball is a stranger to narrative music. Gary Moon is a staple of the Saratoga Springs, NY folk scene with his duo, Stories Told, while Jeff Kimball's music direction has earned him accolades in the theater scene of Boston. They accompany Henry in a way that energizes and colors the songs, adding to the imagery being painted. Both Kimball and Moon also sing, allowing for intricate three-part harmonies.

Hearing the Phil Henry Acoustic Trio on *PHAT LIVE*, it's easy to forget that there are only three musicians on stage. Together the trio create a dynamic sound, working together to lead the audience on a musical journey. The recording quality is so good that it's easy to forget it's a live recording – until lightning strikes the building.

A storyteller like Phil Henry should know better than to tempt fate. But on the night of August 13, 2016, Henry was performing a live show, when the rumblings of thunder outside echoed through the hall. In introducing the next song, a song about a post Katrina radio deejay, Henry and Moon joke about the weather. Three quarters of the way through the number, a startling loud electric crack interrupts everything, almost cue. Amazingly the show went on and they did not lose the recording.

The combination of Henry's vocals, the dramatic storylines and captivating music keep audiences on the edge of their seats – and coming back for more.

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