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Martin Simpson

BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards 2008 winner of Best Album for 'Prodigal Son' and Best Original Song for 'Never Any Good'

"One of the finest acoustic finger-style and slide guitar players in the world"

Twice-winner Musician Of The Year BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards and nominated for Musician of the Year 2009

There is no doubt that after 35 years as a professional musician Martin is, right now, better than ever. Widely acknowledged as one of the finest acoustic and slide guitar players in the world, his interpretations of traditional songs are masterpieces of storytelling. His solo shows are intense, eclectic, spellbinding and deeply moving.

There is no-one who has more successfully combined the diverse elements of British, Afro-American and old-timey music than Simpson. His 15 years living in the US were well spent. In addition his own songwriting he has produced some real gems, from the truck-stop epic, "Love Never Dies" to the profoundly moving "Never Any Good".

His career includes collaborations on stage and record with June Tabor, Kelly Joe Phelps, Jackson Browne, Danú, Martin Carthy, Cara Dillon, David Lindley, Roy Bailey, Martin Taylor, David Hidalgo, Steve Miller, Dick Gaughan and many more.

Simpson is a very regular nominee in the BBC Folk Awards and received Musician of the Year in 2002 and 2005, a nomination in 2009 and album of the year for Bramble Briar in 2002. 2008 saw an incredible 5 nominations and 2 wins. Whether playing American old-time music, blues, a Dylan song or his own material, Martin Simpson is unpredictable, individual and a guitarist of immense subtlety.

"Although it's his guitar virtuosity that's frequently lauded, it's as an interpreter of song that Martin Simpson really scores. Simpson delivers narratives with colour and conviction. Fittingly be-gonged several times at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, Martin Simpson is taking his place, not just as a hero for guitar-besotted acolytes but as one of the national treasures of English traditional music."

BBC Radio 2 Folk & Acoustic Reviews

"His performances elicit powerful emotions and subtle, understated beauty' ***Guitar Player***

"Distinctive coiled-spring beauty and power. A revelation...Exquisitely at one with the All-English repertoire..A master " ***Mojo***

For a full biography and more on Martin see www.martinsimpson.com

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