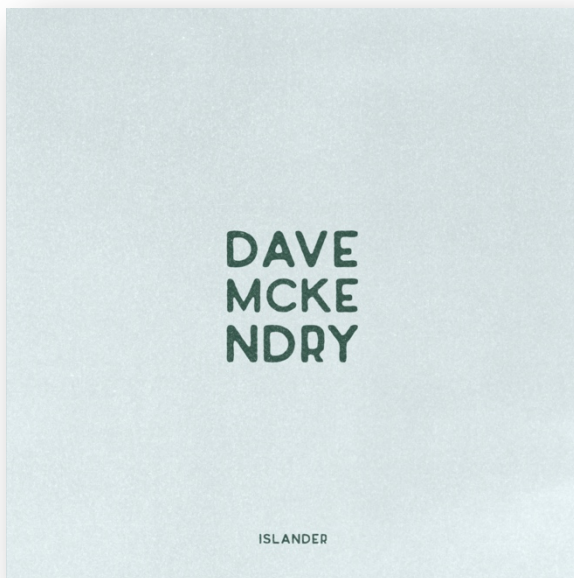


### **Short Artist Information**

Irish singer/songwriter Dave McKendry found his new home in Vienna, Austria a few years ago, after giving away his instruments and pushing off on a bike around Europe. It wasn't long until finding an old guitar in a dusty corner of Spain proved that leaving music, if not home, was a mistake. Trading his bike for a guitar he wrote and played his way to a new life, balancing between street musician and recording artist.

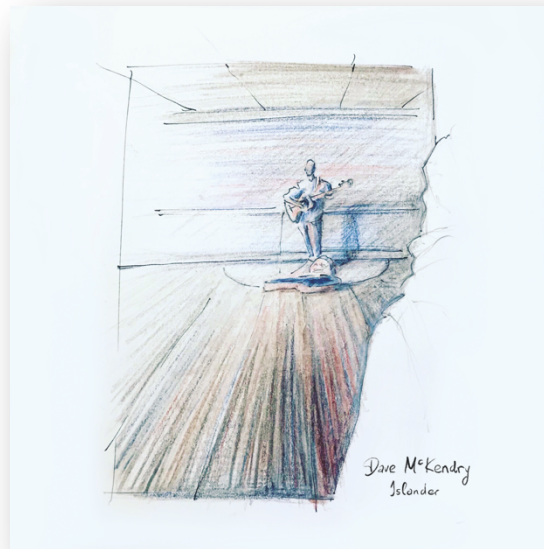
### **Islander Single Information:**



Penned and first performed on the streets of Europe, 'Islander' is the debut track from the upcoming record of Belfast-native Dave McKendry. In this love letter to his home island of Ireland, laced with threads of lilting Irish Airs, McKendry wrestles with nostalgia and dreams of the Irish coast while travelling alone across the

continent, asking and answering, "If you love me then why did you leave? It's 'cause I've got more to see, but I'll always be an Islander." As one more Irishman finds home on foreign soil, 'Islander' might just be the voice of the many who've found themselves far from their native hills, longing for all they've left behind.

**Islander EP Information:**



In his many months touring through Europe as a street musician, Dave McKendry collected experiences from the road alongside thoughts of home, weaving them into songs on the same streets he earned his living. In Vienna, where he'd initially intended to stay no more than a couple of nights, he recorded these songs in late 2018, raw and minimalist, just like the lifestyle from which they were born.

### **Dave McKendry Biography:**



It's Belfast, Northern Ireland in the 90s and Dave McKendry is learning, sometimes the hard way, what it's like to grow up in a politically unstable and violent corner of the world. With shootings, beatings and bombings being a regular part of his childhood, he funneled fear and frustration into music, fronting rock bands early on in his youth. "I was angry. Everyone was angry. So I picked up a microphone and started shouting," jokes McKendry.

And while much has changed, the singer remains. This despite the fact he once tried to give it all up; gifting his instruments to his friends and turning his back on home to travel around Europe by bicycle. It wasn't long, however, before McKendry chanced upon a dusty old guitar somewhere in Spain and realised music was far from through with him. Trading his bike for a guitar of his own, he wandered from place to place as a street musician, "collecting memories, thoughts, ups and downs. Or 'living'." as he puts it. 'Living' which has become a deep well his music drinks from.

A songwriter focused intensely upon communication, Dave McKendry gives priority and utmost care to his lyrics, explaining, “Lyrics are especially important to me. I tell stories when I write songs and I want them to be understood - it’s all about the connection between the listener and the story - so if I want my music to speak for itself, I have to cut everything which isn’t helping. It can hurt sometimes, but it always gets you to a better place.” As someone who packed his life onto a bicycle, Dave knows a thing or two about cutting things which don’t help. And certainly the “better place” for his fans was him chancing upon that old Spanish guitar. But chance wasn’t done with him yet.

While busking on the streets of Vienna, love at first sight turned a two day stop in the city into an indefinite one. And so it was that in 2018 Dave McKendry recorded his first album with producer Jimmy Krammer; a collection of sketches recorded live, raw and alone on guitar and vocals, just as he had performed them on the streets which lead him to the city. Looking back toward his home Dave called the record ‘Islander’. Looking to the future however he had planted a seed for what was to come.

The song ‘Islander’ (released May 27th 2022) will be the debut single of Dave’s first studio album ‘HumanBeingKind’, recorded with producer Martin Kromar and released through Vienna Label echopilot music - where recently artists such as Josh (Cordula Grün) and Ina Regen successfully started their careers - not fifty meters from where Dave first played on the street that fateful day he chose to stay in Vienna.

As can happen in life, the love which bound McKendry to the city faded, but the love of the city itself grows to this day. Countless hours spent playing on its streets and stages have made Vienna - and Europe - his home. Countless hours which have made it easy, time after time, to establish the connection to his audience which is so dear to him. Alone or with his band, with disarming honesty and a couple of secrets, Dave McKendry sweeps his listeners off upon a journey before releasing them gently, gently back onto their own.

>> Upcoming Album “HumanBeingKind” will be released in September 2022 <<