

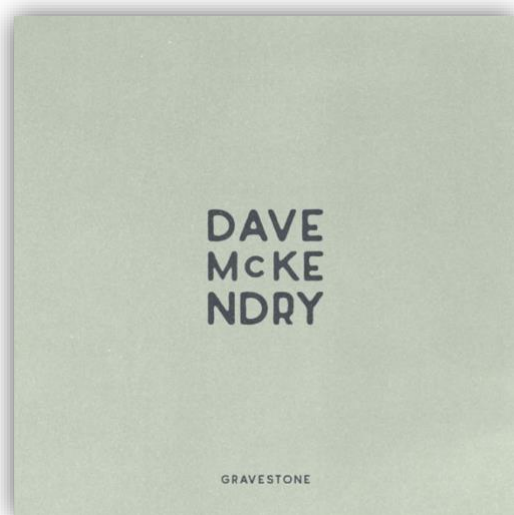
Short Artist Information

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.

Dave McKendry

„Gravestone“

Release 09.09.2022

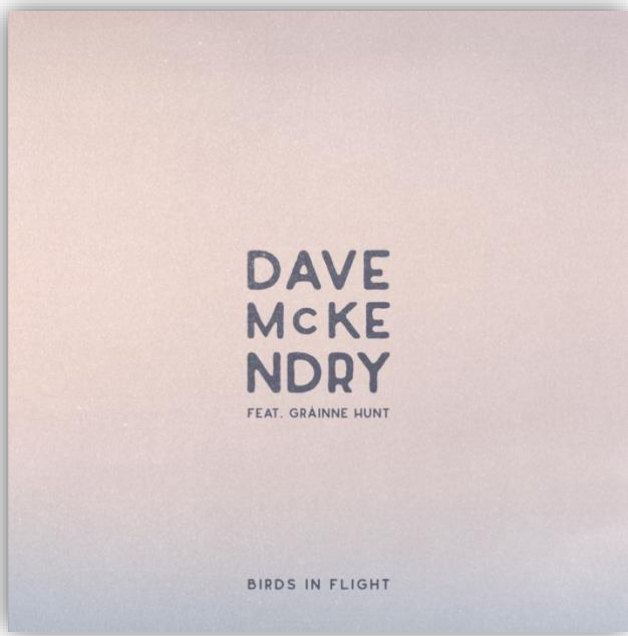


Fourth single from the upcoming album of Belfast-native singer-songwriter Dave McKendry. A reflection on all we leave and all we can't leave behind, "Gravestone" shows glimpses of the decisions and moments which make us who we are. From humble beginnings to a roaring finish, the track sweeps you through a chorus of emotion to stir the blood in your veins, reminding you to live while you're alive.

Dave McKendry feat. Grainne Hunt

“Birds In Flight”

Release 12.08.2022



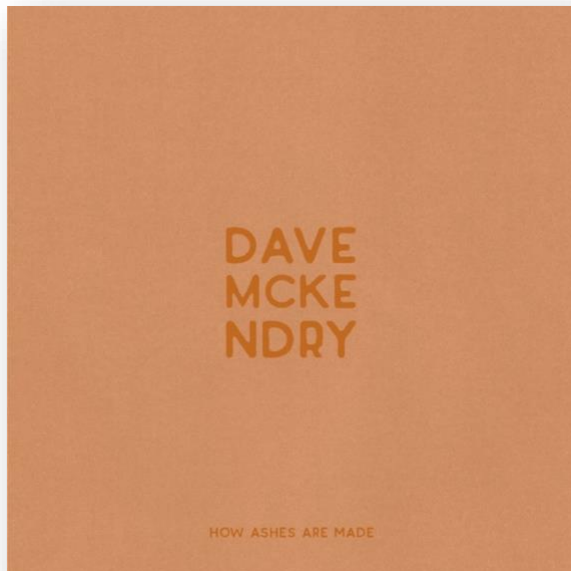
Third single from the upcoming album of Belfast-native singer-songwriter Dave McKendry. A song between lovers who've shared their lives together, taking all the highs and lows "like two birds in flight", 'Birds' was first track to be written for the record. A spontaneous decision in the vocal booth to make the song a duet saw the recruitment of friend and

vocal powerhouse, Gráinne Hunt, whose haunting performance takes the poetry of Dave's lyrics to beautiful new heights.

Dave McKendry

“How Ashes Are Made”

Release 24.06.2022



Being bitten by love is one thing, feeling the sting is another.

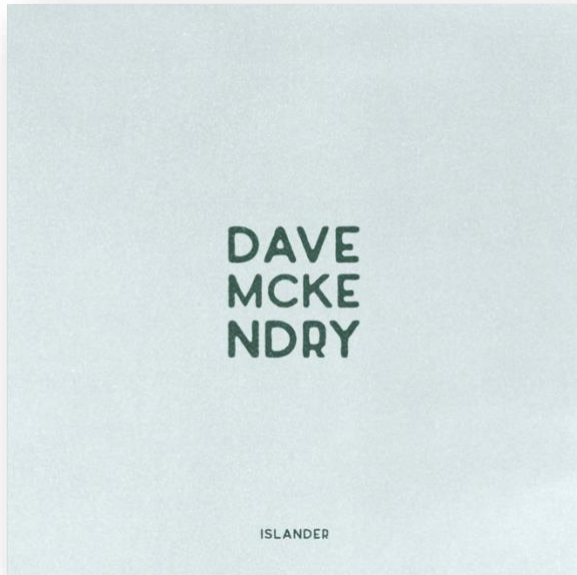
Releasing ‘How Ashes Are Made’ - the second single from his upcoming record - Dave McKendry dives into what for most of us is familiar territory: the lowest lows of love. One moment “burning out,” the next admitting, “even after the flames, I almost wanna burn again,”

McKendry relives the madness of a toxic relationship. Bitter-sweet as love can be, the track is wrapped in sweet, pop production, a closer listen however will reveal the bite in the lyrics. An ode to a “beautiful vampire”, ‘How Ashes Are Made’ is a reminder of what people are capable of (and what people are capable of surviving).

Dave McKendry

“Islander”

Release 27.05.2022



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.

Dave McKendry
Islander EP Information:

Release 20.05.2022



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.

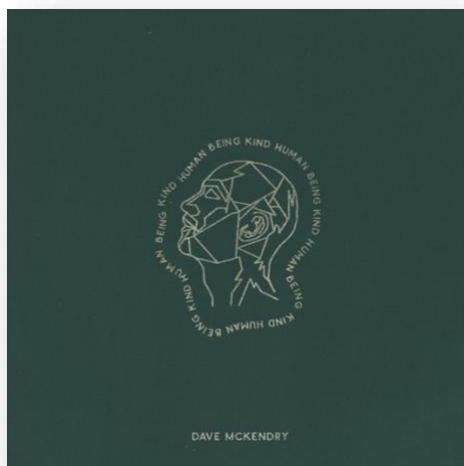
The song ‘Islander’ (released May 27th 2022) will be the debut single of Dave’s first studio album ‘HumanBeingKind’, recorded with producer Martin Kromar and released through Vienna Label echopilot music - where recently artists such as Josh (Cordula Grün) and Ina Regen successfully started their careers - 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.

Dave McKendry „HumanBeingKind“

Album information

Release 07.10.2022



“HumanBeingKind” is the debut album of Belfast-native singer-songwriter Dave McKendry. A journey of discovery, the record is the culmination of years of travelling, writing, living and learning. Leaving the north coast of Ireland and music behind him, McKendry set out to find a new life, beyond the one he’d

known. “HumanBeingKind” documents the collision of the man he was with the man he has become. Deeply personal and disarmingly open, McKendry invites his listeners into his world by holding nothing back from them.

Dave McKendry about his album “HumanBeingKind”



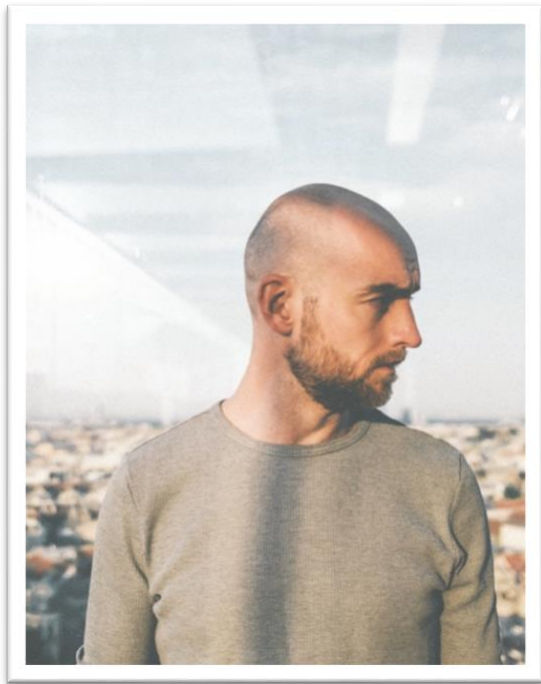
If I'd have known how long it would all take, how difficult it would all be and just how much I'd have to learn, I'm pretty sure I'd never have started. But I didn't know that, because I didn't know anything.

After leaving music behind completely, only to have it track me down again months and countries later, it was still a few years before I trusted myself and anyone else to actually record an album. I write songs because something deep inside me gives me no other choice. I play them, I suppose, for the same reason, but my bedroom and the street gave me ample opportunity to do both for years. The transition to being a recording artist, working (and even living) in a studio day after day, for years on end, was a long, painstakingly slow process of disbelief becoming belief.

It was also a learning process. Learning to open up, to explore and ruthlessly improve every corner of my songs, to trust people who knew better than I did, to actually make a record, to stand in front of a microphone in a little vocal booth and ultimately face the music. Even after we'd finished arranging and producing the songs I still had so much to learn about my voice. When we started I thought I knew all there was to know about Dave McKendry and his music. If I'd have known how long it would all take, how difficult it would all be and just how much I'd have to learn, I'm pretty sure I'd never have started. But I didn't know that, because I didn't know anything.



I met my producer, Martin Kromar of Echopilot, while playing a small gig in Vienna. He invited me to his studio to get to know one another, talk music and to hear the songs I'd been working on. Another year would pass before we finally began working together. By this time we'd already decided to work in Immersive Audio, creating the record in a 3D space which brings the listener into a whole new universe of experience. I write from the depths of my soul. I wanted the record to reach into the depths of my listeners' souls and sing to them there. Immersive Audio was, I was sure, the best possible way to do this.

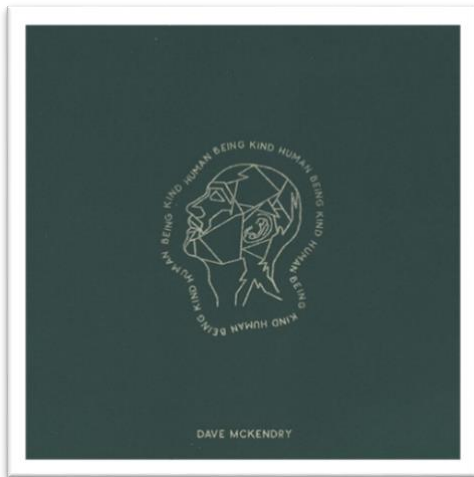


The songs themselves were born of experience. I'd left everything I'd known behind to travel around Europe. Days of cycling across open country and walking the Camino De Santiago gave me ample headspace to dig into the life I'd lead up until that point, while providing me a sharp contrast to view it all against.

All those things I'd taken for granted were suddenly presented to me as the minor miracles they were: that I had lived and loved, lost and left it all behind, suffered and thrived, that I was privileged enough to be where I was, living from day to day; these things overwhelmed me in their simplicity and their beauty. And then a particularly brutal relationship, begun in Spain and ended in France, spurred me to reflect on all the relationships I'd been through and the lessons I'd learned. I dove into my past, letting go of painful experiences, through the catharsis of songwriting. I was growing as a person. Slowly for the most part, but now and then, particularly toward the end of the record, in bigger leaps.

I was also, over the 900+km of the Camino De Santiago, facing my demons in the Catholic Church. Growing up in Northern Ireland I'd experienced no small amount of suffering in my childhood. While I was beaten for the religion I was raised in, I warred inside with what it all meant to me. There was a lot of anger there. This perhaps came to a head when, in 2019, I flew to Colorado for a songwriting camp. On my first day I met an incredible woman who shared her story with me, knowing full well I'd have to write a song about it. 'Mercy' was the result.

Somehow in the midst of all that pain I was able to find a little healing and perhaps the strength to let go of a lot of my anger toward the church. I think it was her strength which inspired me. And 'Mercy' is also a core example of what this whole album is ultimately about: People. Humans. And in the best case, humans being kind.



Since I was young I've been lucky enough to have had some incredible people in my life. I met so many more - from all over the world - on my travels and I met and began to work with truly great people more or less immediately after arriving in Vienna. I've learned so much from all of these people: how to be a better person, songwriter, musician, artist... And I've learned that no matter where you go, incredible people are waiting to be discovered, befriended and celebrated. As deeply personal as

HumanBeingKind may be, it's a celebration of people coming together, creating something bigger than all of us as individuals.