

Ged Wilson

BIOGRAPHY

Ged Wilson describes his act as blues for the 21st Century. Raised along the Irwell Delta in Manchester and now relocated in Cheltenham, Ged is a veteran of the British Blues boom of the 60's. He cuts his original tunes from the world around him viewed through his northern biased kaleidoscope. With his upbeat guitar styles, he weaves some slide, rack harp and laconic humour into his funky one-man medicine show.

In the 1970's inspired by the likes of John Mayall, Rory Gallagher and Savoy Brown Ged joined his first band called "Spike" as lead singer. The band recorded an album (vinyl LP) of self-penned songs and went on to play many gigs in the Northwest of England. After a couple of years, the 5-piece band went their separate ways as work and lifestyle changes took their toll.

During the 1980's Ged experimented with the rise of synthesizers and drum machines as well as learning to play saxophone and harmonica. Ged recorded some demos at the now defunct Twilight studios in Salford. All of this was good grounding for his future musical career.

In the early 1990's Ged formed his band, "Blues at Ten" a 4-piece blues band featuring Ged on lead vocals, guitar and harmonica. The band did many gigs across the north of England sometimes playing 7 nights a week! Here Ged started to hone his craft on stage. Once again after 4 years on the road the band took a break.

Fast forward to the early noughties and Ged was asked to front a new band called "No Money Down" a 5-piece blues band from the North West of England. The band went on to win many plaudits as they toured the country and played the major blues festivals. The band went across to Chicago to jam and observe first-hand what was going down in the blues clubs there and bringing this fresh approach back to Blighty. Once again after 4 years on the road the band retired and at that point in 2011 Ged decided to go it alone.

Ged has since made many radio appearances and had his music played around the world. His four solo albums have been appreciated by a global audience and his third studio album "Tonight at Noon" released in 2016 had a promo track "Ain't That a Shame" featured on the Paul Jones blues show on BBC Radio 2. Ged's previous studio album "What's Going On?" was listed in the top 100 albums worldwide for the year 2013.

Ged has toured the nation, played the blues festivals and music venues across the land, including the Great British Rhythm and Blues Festival main acoustic stage, The Skegness Rock & Blues Festival and Maryport Blues Festival to name but three.

“Wilson is clearly gifted in composition, vocals and lyrics, but also knows how to create a specific vibe in combining those elements...” – Alice Neiley USA

“...I thought that was very nice indeed I hope you enjoyed it...” – Paul Jones BBC Radio 2

“Wilson is an accomplished bluesman with the keen sense and insight to make every song unique instead of the same old doldrums...” – Kelly O’Neil USA

Ged’s live performances are an attempt to create a live band sound whilst playing solo stripped back music. The use of different guitar styles and tunings, vocal ideas, guitar pedals and foot stomping percussion keep the audience engaged with an upbeat performance. A mix of contemporary blues with a hint of old style, crossing jazz, soul, funk boundaries with a touch of laconic humour. Although Ged does not take himself too seriously, he is very serious about his music and delivering a great performance for his audience.

Ged sees his role as a curator for the Arts, having inherited the music he feels the need to nurture it before passing it on to the next generation. By referencing his influences from the 1970’s he can blend the raw truth of Lightnin’ Hopkins with Miles Davis moods and sprinkle the funky lyric delivery of Gil Scott-Heron and distil this fusion down into his own sound.

There are plenty of challenges today in the world of music as listening habits have changed, technology moved on and the birth of independent artists, but Ged is up for the challenge of keeping his dream alive of getting his music out there. When it comes to a legacy, Ged likes the idea of under the radar cult status of someone like Nick Drake whose legacy has gone on to inspire many budding musicians long after his passing.

As Ged says, *“maybe that’s how I will be remembered in years to come, to quote a line from the 70’s jazz rock band ‘IF’, ...I want it said when I am gone, I moved the world just one step on...”*

And finally...how bizarre...

- Ged is left-handed but plays the guitar and harmonica (upside down) right-handed.
- He had one of his songs featured on Japanese TV.
- Ged wrote the soundtrack to the "Pendle Witches" DVD.
- Ged made £6.21p in an hour whilst busking in Manchester city centre...now ain't that the blues!