

## Connor Garvey Press Kit

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### 1. Accolades

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#### 1. Notable Accolades

\*2014 Winner of **Kerrville Folk Festival New Folk** Performing Songwriter Competition (Kerrville, TX)

\*2014 Winner of **Rocky Mountain Folks Fest** Singer Songwriter Competition (Lyons, CO)

\*2014 **Falcon Ridge Folk Festival** Audience Voted "MOST WANTED ARTIST" (Hillsdale, NY)

\*2014 Winner of **SolarFest Festival** Performing Songwriter Competition (Tinnmouth, VT)

\*2014 Semi-Finalist in **International Songwriting Competition (ISC)**

\*2012 Winner of **Wildflower Festival** Performing Songwriter Competition (Richardson, TX)

\*2011 Winner of Maine Songwriters Associations Annual Songwriting Competition (Portland, ME)

\*Top 6 Sirius XM's The Coffeehouse's New Singer Songwriter of 2010

#### 2. Biography-

Connor Garvey is an award-winning singer-songwriter from Portland, Maine, with the amiable presence of an entertainer, the lyrical depth of a poet, and the enchantment of a storyteller.

Garvey leaves audiences uplifted and inspired through a positive message delivered in a way The Portland Press Herald says proves you can be optimistic and self-aware without being boring. His unique sandy tenor and masterful blend of rhythm and melody draw comparison to Paul Simon and contemporaries Josh Ritter and Jason Mraz. He wins song competitions. He fills rooms. But most of all he moves people.

First time listeners often are drawn to Garvey's engaging performance style, accomplished musicianship, and memorable melodies. But his lyrics project a depth and sincerity that allow the observant listener to find meaning beyond the catchy hook. Meanwhile, the intricate production of his albums adds emotional depth and keeps the songs fresh play after play.

This combination of songwriting and performance strength has earned Garvey numerous awards including being named winner of the Kerrville New Folk, Rocky Mountain Folks Fest, SolarFest, Wildflower Art and Music Festival and Maine Songwriters Association songwriting competitions, voted as Most Wanted artist at the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, nominated for Best Male Performer in the New England Music Awards, and a top new singer songwriter by Sirius XM's The Coffeehouse.

On his latest release, *Meteors and Beating Hearts*, Garvey shows further maturity as a songwriter, addressing personal and universal themes through a series of lyrical stories. Many of the songs were written as assignments for a weekly songwriting group. The challenge of writing a new song each week and presenting it to a group of artists he admires challenged and pushed Garvey to try a new approach to his songwriting.

Garvey's interest in music and writing began at a very young age. Both his parents are educators and his father was a songwriter. Growing up in such a musical environment in the artistically rich Northeast, Garvey developed the firm belief that songwriting is a method for bringing community together and a way for people to explore a greater depth within their own lives.

Originally a drummer, he picked up the guitar in his teens, in part because his best friend was better with the sticks and together they could start a rock band. But this rhythmic background remains at the core of his musical style. He merges syncopated bass lines with melodic leads to create a full sound from his acoustic guitar.

The themes of community and living with intention run deep for Garvey, from the musical memories of his youth to his ease in developing relationships with audiences and fellow artists. He builds upon the energy of live performance to deliver a memorable experience in a way that has led folk stalwarts Vance Gilbert and David Wilcox to proclaim the tradition of acoustic music is in good hands with Connor Garvey.

### **3. Press Quotes and Reviews**

"A universal message that people can grab hold to just the kind of thing I needed. "

*Dennis Bigelow (Music Director) - KRFC- Fort Collins, CO*

"Garvey's sandy tenor, attention to rhythmic detail and winsome way with a melody bring to mind the music of Paul Simon in his Rhymin' Simon days as well as contemporaries Josh Ritter and Jason Mraz...a crack studio band led by Pete Morse and lovely harmony vocals from Sara Hallie Richardson flesh out Garvey's own impressive guitar picking and solo style honed from countless of club dates and house concerts..."

*Direct Current (know music better)*

"Where Ocean Meets Land is the name of folk songwriter CONNOR GARVEY's new record, an 11-track platter of Martin Sexton-ish jangle-funk, Mraz-y confessionals, and a very clear voice. He's from these parts, but takes Americana seriously enough to play for pittances at Midwestern house shows, which he's been doing the last four years."

*The Portland Phoenix (Editor's Pick)*

"Where Ocean Meets Land"... with Garvey's summery, clear voice is best played loud and not left to softly linger in the background

*Aimsele Ponti - The Portland Press Herald*

"...when Connor Garvey stepped up with solid singing and playing, the place was silent and I knew that this acoustic music tradition was in the right hands..."

*Vance Gilbert - Folk Legend*

"From the moment he took the stage Connor Garvey became an instant Acoustic View favorite. His engaging style and infectious smile established the rapport necessary to let his wonderful music touch the hearts of everyone in attendance. Since that night, we have been besieged with requests to have Connor back in the living room; something we plan to do again as soon as possible."

*Stacy Sinner - Acoustic View House Concerts (MN)*

"The show tonight comes from folkie Connor Garvey...you know he'll be good."

*Karen Beaudoin - The Portland Press Herald*

"... proves you can be optimistic and self-aware without being boring."

*Aimseil Ponti - The Portland Press Herald*

"One of the brightest young performers on the folk scene"

*Phil Daligan - Songwriters by the Sea*

"The songs of Connor Garvey have that rare and balanced blend of refreshing lyric, inventive guitar work, and mesmerizing grooves, all powered by his clear and agile singing voice. Ranging from funky to sensitive, serious to playful, they convey the kind of inspiration found in a reverent pursuer of life's depths and joys. Whether it's hearing him live on stage or on one of his recordings I'm always uplifted and amazed."

*Chris Cunningham - Storyhill & Basecamp Recording*