



## Between sets with Jim Foster

It's between sets for singer, songwriter and impeccable guitar player, **Jim Foster**. It's a swank pub, in Vancouver's Coal Harbour, with yachts in the foreground, North Shore mountains in the background and a real log fireplace blazing in the corner. You'll find Jim here Monday through Wednesday – he still plays five to six nights a week – and by the looks of things, he's having a great time onstage and off. There's a twinkle in his eye and a quick and easy grin while he's talking and when he sits down, the conversation flows easily. He begins by saying, "I've been playing and writing music my whole life." And when he says that he worked for a year when he was 22 to buy a Martin D-28 (that he still has) and never looked back, you don't doubt him either because he's also been writing hit songs since the late 1970's. Jim continues. "I've opened for a lot of great acts but the highlight has to be **The Byrds** when I was just out of school. I got to sit in their dressing room next to **Clarence White** for an hour while they warmed up acoustically and they didn't boot me out."

If you ask him about his early influences he'll list iconic rock and blues icons like *The Beatles*, *The Byrds*, *Rolling Stones*, *The Who*, *Yardbirds*, *Buffalo Springfield*, *The Band*, *Bob Dylan*, *Neil Young*, *Ry Cooder*, *John Hammond*, *John Mayall*, *Eric Clapton*, *Duane Allman*, *Tampa Red*, *Lightrin' Hopkins*, *Muddy Waters*, *Buddy Guy*, *Charlie Christian*, *Mose Allison*, *Django Reinhardt*... and that list goes on... But when you ask about his early career, Jim is very matter of

fact, "I had a few hits in Canada and one Top 30 in the USA before they sold the record company and that was the end of that."

What Jim doesn't mention was that his band, **Fosterchild** was signed by **CBS** in 1976 and released their first '45 "**Let Me Down Easy**" later that year. Their first full album came in the form of an eponymous release in the summer of 1977, featuring "**I Need Somebody Tonight**" which went Top 5 in Canada. Their sophomore album "**Troubled Child**", recorded at Vancouver's **Little Mountain Studios** was released in 1978. **Fosterchild** hit the road to promote the album, but by the end of the year the band and their record label had parted company and the band returned home. Picked up a year later by another label, **Fosterchild** went back into the studio and recorded **On The Prowl**, releasing the record in the summer of 1980. This was the last release from **Fosterchild** and although the band toured sporadically for the next couple of years **Fosterchild** disbanded in 1982.

In 1986 Jim released **Power Lines**, a solo album. The album featured 10 original tracks, including the single "**X-Ray Eyes**", which subsequently won **Best Song**, **Best Songwriter** and **Best Video** at the **West Coast Music Awards** in Vancouver. In the nineties Jim also played some lead guitar for **One Horse Blue**, **Jann Arden**, and the **Crueros**, but that's all so last century because when Jim realized that his music career wasn't as important to him as perfecting his music, he changed directions, hanging close to home and studio, concentrating on his songwriting and carving a niche for himself in Vancouver's pub scene. Honing his craft, he wrote songs for **Doug & The Slugs**, **One Horse Blue** and **Patricia Conroy**, charting twice for **Patricia** with "**Here We Go Again**" and "**Nobody's Fault**".

During the same period, Jim released "**Artist's Print**", an independent CD recorded

in **Vancouver** and **Hong Kong**. Inspired by his many artist friends and their Limited Edition prints, this was a limited edition hand made project with a run of 300 copies. Despite still being in demand no more copies will be made.

Last year, Jim returned to the studio and the result is the **Lone Bird** CD, with 13 new tracks that range from rock through blues to ballads. From the opening chords of "**Love Thing**" to the final notes of "**Spaghetti West**", **Lone Bird** takes you on a journey from the gritty east side streets of Vancouver over the mysterious western shores of the "**Smugglers Coast**" and to many other places physical, emotional and spiritual.

Back in the pub, Jim continues, "I love writing, recording and performing and have had a few people record my songs including the lovely **Patricia Conroy**." He gets up to start his next set and continues "I got a co-write on **Murray McLauchlan's "Gulliver's Taxi"** CD for "**I Put Away My Gun**" and played the solo on it which was cool, as I'd always been a fan."

And speaking of fans, there's more than a few of them here, both regulars and new discoverers of the immense talent that **Jim Foster** unleashes every night he straps on the guitar. He's having a good night tonight, selling advance copies of his new CD and I watch him sell one to a young man who came running up to Jim as soon as he left the table, a song title written on the palm of his hand. It's been a while since I've seen someone that age get excited about a song. But if anyone can write a song that could do that for you, it would be **Jim Foster**.

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*Jim Foster will be appearing in various locations across Canada through the late spring and early summer to promote the release of the **Lone Bird** CD, including dates in Toronto in late April. Stay with [jimfoster.ca](http://jimfoster.ca) or [questrecords.ca](http://questrecords.ca) for weekly updates.*