

GREG MURRAY & THE SEVEN WONDERS - ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



City Music Scene

ROB FIDDAMAN

this week chats to singer-songwriter Greg Murray about monthly singles, influences and the perils of fronting a six, seven or even 14-piece band...



Hey Greg, you have been recently brought to my attention by Scott Evans and I love what you're doing. Tell me all about yourself.

I'm an Irish singer-songwriter who has been very successfully disguising himself as a maths teacher for many years in a very well known Catholic High School in the city looking after pastoral care and everything mathematical for as long as I can remember. I'm from Lurgan, County Armagh in Northern Ireland and I have been based in Newcastle-under-Lyme for many years, though I still keep my Irish connections as fresh as my family and friends will allow.

Your music is so uplifting, with a mix of genres and influences. How would you describe it?

I like to think so Rob - a pretty spiritually positive up-lifting sound is how my music has been described and I'll take that. Not all my material is as positive though as I address love, loss and everything in between. I love a great turn of phrase and at times the euphoric melody just won't allow it but I attempt to do my best.

You have a few videos on Instagram of you in action on stage. You have a great stage presence, and a look of Elvis Costello. Have you been told that before?

Yes indeed...the social platforms are full to the seams with live pics and festivals that we've played. Kind of you to say about the stage presence - I just love getting out and enjoying the music and playing to the crowds, for no stage presence or stagecraft has been rehearsed - for I know so many performers who play the circuit with us but by the looks of them they're far too cool to get worked up to try to put on a great show, and sometimes even give the impression the audience owes them a living. Just to get out there to entertain is a great honour and a luxury that we as a band do not take for granted. The audience are the most important part of the equation and this, I'm afraid, some local acts and even international acts forget to realise.

Your full band name is Greg Murray & the Seven Wonders. I'm guessing that's because there are seven of you in total?

Yeah Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders is the name but does not relate to the number of musicians. We've headlined numerous festivals across the Midlands like the Acoustic Festival of Great Britain as a 14-piece at one time with a six-piece brass section. But that has proved madness to organise with musicians who are good friends but really most do not understand the rigours of playing live, rehearsing, writing and getting very little for it as covers acts are so readily available to fill a void in many venues who don't have an interest in new original music. Every city in the UK/world is experiencing this,

so the chance of bands breaking via the live circuit is next to impossible. For the really good shows, it just so happened that the full posse so happen to be free. Go figure! But we have an absolutely amazing line-up who represent the songs and music so effortlessly and beautifully, who make the construction and rehearsing of new material so spirited as they wish to be involved in new music recordings and studio work coming soon.

Did you originally set out to have a seven piece band?

Not in the slightest! Fleetwood Mac's song The Seven Wonders was the influence for that one. I have a jumping CD in my car where I have never heard the whole song from start to finish, but ironically my son thought of the name on a very long car ride to Cornwall one summer. He's a commercial pilot now and he's to blame for the name.

Are you all local or can it be difficult meeting for rehearsals etc?

Yes all local now after learning the hard way with regards rehearsals.

How long have you been singing and performing for?

You don't want to know! I started writing after playing the tenor sax and then began writing on an acoustic/electric guitar way before I came over to England. Most of the original acts performing now were not born when I was first gigging in the Midlands.

Where do you record?

I record at home now but I have recorded at numerous places across the UK. During covid, I was lucky to work with a production company in Edmonton, Canada, who mixed and mastered a large number of my songs for a future album release.

Your track Flowers is more pop. Do you love experimenting with different styles?

The guys in my band are my sounding board as I write often, with many thousands of songs written down and recorded through the years. I'll attempt to make sure every one is different and give that to them as my brief before we attempt to build it into the live set. Pop, indie, lo-fi, rock, blues, Celtic, Irish, soul even reggae are all genres we have in our current set. Who knows where things go from one song to the next? It's a wide open playing field as long as the song is a good one.

I see you recently played The Cavern Club in Liverpool, that must have been an amazing experience.

Unbelievable! The stage sound was one of the best I have ever encountered but the very best show of that weekend was at the Cavern pub across the way from the club. We arrived after playing the Cavern

Wonders never cease!



Greg Murray, whose band are named after a song by Fleetwood Mac, above, and who once won praise for his singing from Hugh Cornwell of The Stranglers, below.



Club two hours previously where I told the crowd we'd be playing the pub in a few hours, not knowing the size of the venue nor stage. The stage was around the size of a small car and I had a seven-piece in tow. Needless to say, most of us were playing in the crowd with the audience inches away from our faces and talk about seat of the pants stuff - it was the most amazing experience we've ever had. No sound check - straight in and hoping for the best but what a crowd - most coming over from our earlier set at the club and most ready to party and jump straight in. We had nowhere to hide and we played the best set ever.



When and where can we see you next?

All of our shows are posted on our sites at www.GM7W.com/live and www.GREGMURRAY.co.uk/live but our next few shows are as follows:

June 15: Middlewich Folk & Boat Festival (8.30-9.30pm); July 27: Hogarth's Gin Palace, Newcastle (6pm-8pm); July 29: The Narrowboat Sessions, Kildsgrove (6pm); August 23: The Acoustic & Ale Festival, Marbury Park, Northwich (9pm-10.30pm); September 7: The Captain's Bar, Hanley (8pm-10pm); October 5: Brian's 60th, private party (8pm-11pm); October 19: The Jug, Newcastle (7pm-11pm).

Have you done any physical releases like CDs or vinyl?

2010 was my first CD release of Tymes Ten, which is on all the streaming platforms, but I have physical versions if anyone would like one. I'm hoping to assemble all of our single releases, which we are releasing one a month, and we are now on our 12th single to be released on June 28 called Show & Tell. Beth and Scott at Leopheard do an amazing job championing all the local original acts and their names should be in lights for what they do for the music community.

Anyone you have supported that we would all know?

Supergrass at the Wheatseal many years ago where Gaz Coombes said he loved my voice! The Stranglers in another venue around the corner from the Wheatseal - again Hugh Cornwall commenting on how he loved my voice... common theme there. Supported Echobelly and Pele were meant to play and called in sick so I played with my band instead, and the Wheatseal was swinging. The Christians and Chris Difford supported me at the Acoustic Festival of Great Britain two years on the trot. Glenn Tilbrook woke me up in my sleep one cold winter night and invited me downstairs to sing with him - a story for another time.

I should imagine you play quite a few outdoor gigs and festivals.

I just love festivals the best as I love getting the crowd involved with drums/percussion/tambourines/singing...it's what it's all about. For we're a far longer time dead.

Do you perform much outside of the UK?

Not yet, though we have been invited to Berlin/Copenhagen/Stockholm as part of the IPO Festival and even NYC/San Francisco.

When do you have new music out?

Once a month. Stream music by Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders and James Gregory Murray. I'd really love to get involved in your radio show Rob - just let me know how and I'll be there.

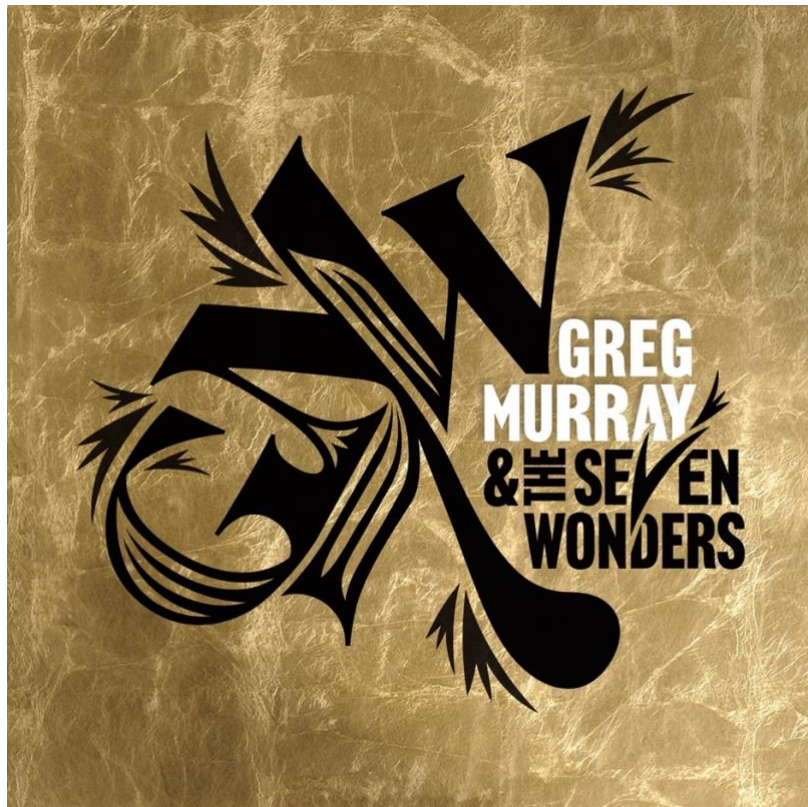
Sentinel music writer Rob Fiddaman is a label owner, influencer and author. He also has his own In The Spotlight show on HitMix Radio.



@rob_fiddaman www.thehitmix.co.uk



**GREG
MURRAY
& THE SEVEN
WONDERS**





Picture an Irish man, the Irish humor, wit, and marvelous twists of language, all sprinkled with the tears of angels. Surround him with a brotherhood of passionate musicians and then let them take you on a musical roller-coaster ride full of elevating positive energy.

From beautiful heart-torn ballads to ethereal choral anthemic choruses with uplifting piano-infused hooks, their music has often been described as having American folk, 'Tex-Mex' tinged influences!

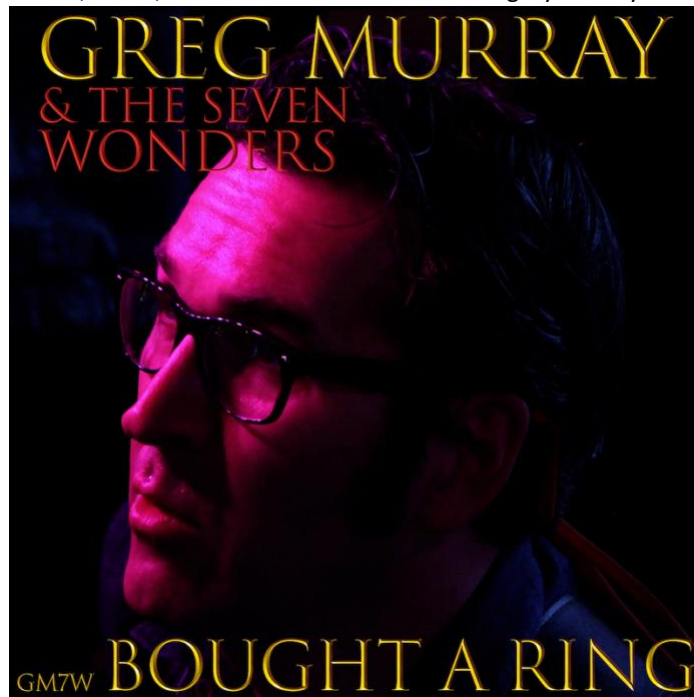
Greg and the Wonders deliver brazen barn dances, ballads, dramatic Americana, graceful-indie-rock and pop, and reggae-folk , all sprinkled with added seasoning from sparkling keys, banjo, lapsteel guitar and mandolin!

Add the fact that virtually every member of the band sings and it's no surprise that their shows create a fantastic live atmosphere with melodies that will stay with you long after the show is over!

1st SINGLE

Bought A Ring (Produced by Catalyst Production 2020)

Words, Music, Artwork & Video – @James Gregory Murray 2020



VIDEO

Bought A Ring (Produced by Catalyst Production 2020)

Words, Music, Artwork & Video – @James Gregory Murray 2020

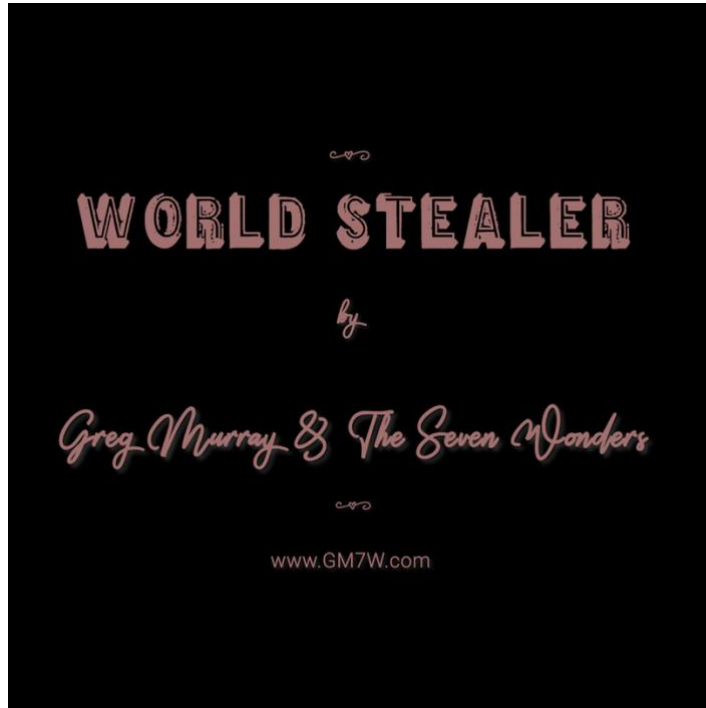
<https://youtu.be/Rw-5fWVOImI>



2nd SINGLE

World Stealer (Produced by Catalyst Production 2022)

Words, Music, Artwork & Video – @James Gregory Murray 2022



VIDEO

World Stealer (Produced by Catalyst Production 2022)

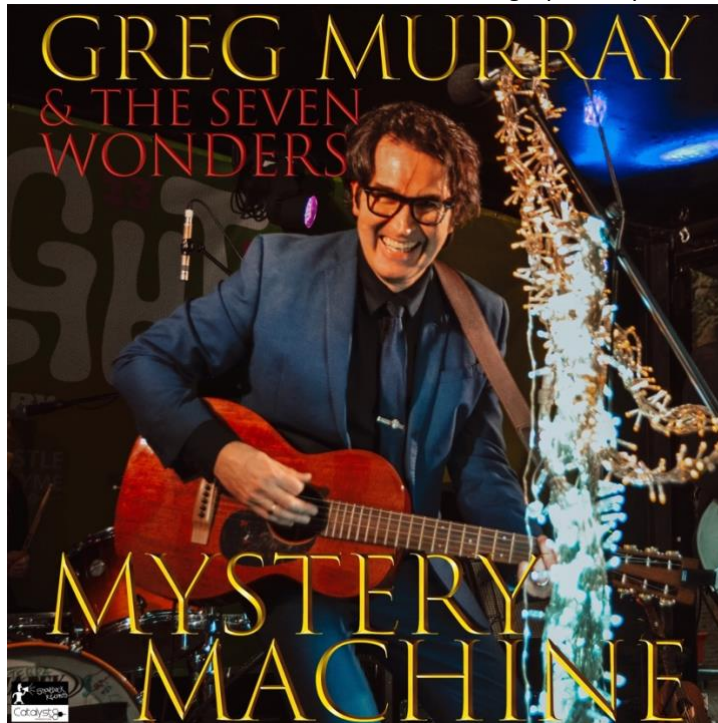
Words, Music, Artwork & Video – @James Gregory Murray 2022

<https://youtu.be/dEm40EwMOw8>



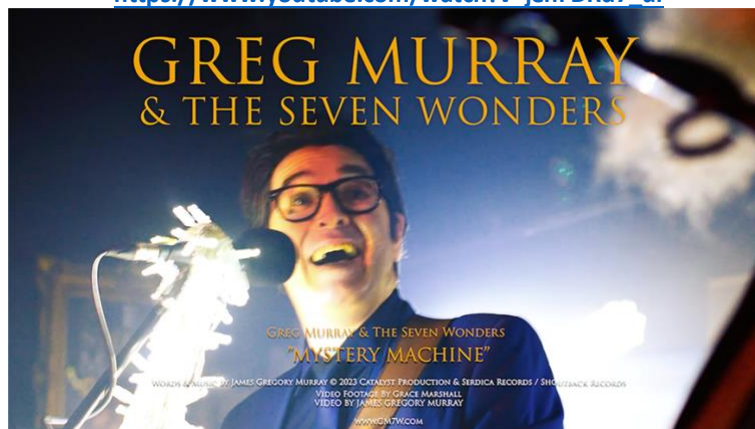
3rd SINGLE

Mystery Machine (Produced by Catalyst Production 2023)
Words, Music, Artwork & Video – James Gregory Murray 2023



VIDEO

Mystery Machine (Produced by Catalyst Production 2023)
Words, Music, Artwork & Video – @James Gregory Murray 2023
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jenFDRd7_ul



SINGLE REVIEW “MYSTERY MACHINE” (OCTOBER 18, 2023)

Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders' NEW SINGLE 'Mystery Machine' - Guest review by Captain's Bar events manager, 'Say Something' Music label owner and promoter Scott Evans

Despite its namesake, the latest single from Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders – "Mystery Machine" – has nothing to do with the iconic van in the Scooby Doo cartoon, but instead is one from the band's extensive back catalogue and a longstanding live show 'sign off' that has finally been released as a record. "I always firmly believed that it should have been our first single," said Greg – the frontman of this wonderfully cheerful band that defies genre. "The reason, not possibly, being that some people just don't get us," he added.

Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders are a spectacle to behold, like the Great Wall of China or Petra. The eight-piece Irish/Americana indie rock supergroup fuses the twang of Americana, with Latino, with 'death country', with brash and anthemic choruses, all played at 100 miles an hour with more enthusiasm than an eight-year-old at Alton Towers. "We're the band with guitar riffs, keys riffs, brass riffs, harmonica, squeezebox, harmonies, all thrown into the mix on many songs with aplomb. I try to reflect the positivity of the lyrics with the positivity of the musicality and seldom hold back," Greg continues.

Mystery Machine does anything but hold back, and feels like the perfect track to sum up everything that Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders is about. The track bursts to life with a vibrant arrangement before it's met with Greg's charming vocals and vivacious energy as he describes the ups and downs of human existence in the most life-affirming way. "I love a good out-of-focus, cryptic lyric/title, which comes clear when you take the listener through the journey of what's going on in the songwriters' head," Greg tells The Leopheard. "So to put you out of your misery of just wondering what or who the 'Mystery Machine' is; let me tell you – we all have one and how we use it is up to us...it's our heart – not the physical muscle that we all have, pumping blood around our bodies, but the mysterious machine that influences and motivates us to feel, love and express ourselves every moment of every day."

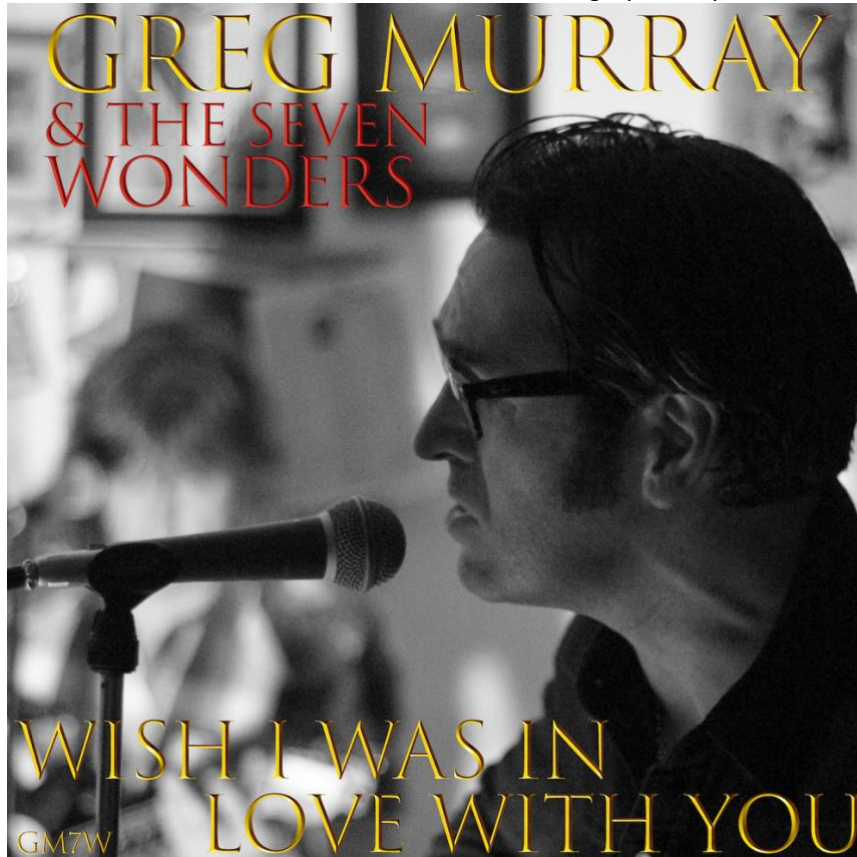
A lyrical rollercoaster, listeners strap in as Greg describes the habit of getting caught up in life's daily grind and how we can often forget to live for the day or to stop and smell the roses. There are moments of ultimate pessimism in the pre-chorus, but this is simply to provide the momentum required to reach the soaring heights of the chorus which vibrates with optimism lyrically, vocally and musically, mirroring the ups and downs of life itself. The instrumentation is a carnival, boasting guitar riffs, keys and brass, in the band's usual brash and optimistic grandeur, continuing to evade categorisation with a sound that is distinctive and unique to the band.

Heart-warming and sincere life advice delivered at breakneck pace, Mystery Machine is yet another track that makes you want to laugh, dance and sing. Emerging as a beacon of positivity, it's the sonic equivalent of the Latin phrase Carpe Diem, with Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders delivering its message to anyone who is willing to hear it. It's a song that advocates for faith, hope and love, serving as an encouragement to take risks and never live in regret, reminding us that 'the good outweighs the bad, most of the time'. "Go on, take that chance, for you never know when anything like it will ever come along again," – James Gregory Murray. Listen to Mystery Machine here on Spotify and read the article here: <https://theleopheard.com/greg-murray-seven-wonders-mystery-machine/>

4th SINGLE

Wish I Was In Love With You (Produced by Catalyst Production 2023)

Words, Music, Artwork & Video – @James Gregory Murray 2023



VIDEO

Wish I Was In Love With You (Produced by Catalyst Production 2023)

Words, Music, Artwork & Video – @James Gregory Murray 2023

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzi5WFJm90w&list=PLt54ua42iRQqYgr7EJgXcdLDwQi_IM3L3&index=1



SINGLE REVIEW "WISH I WAS IN LOVE WITH YOU" AND "THE PAIN & GLORY" **(NOVEMBER 22, 2023)**

Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders' latest dual-release sees band 'at its peak' - Guest review by Captain's Bar events manager, 'Say Something' Music label owner and promoter Scott Evans

Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders are a special part of the Stoke-on-Trent music scene – there really are no other bands like them. Their music is often uplifting whilst at the same time, deliver lyrics that are heartfelt and heart-breaking in equal measure. Their latest double release encapsulates that juxtaposition perfectly. "Wish I Was In Love With You" and "The Pain & Glory" are two very well crafted songs showing two very different sides of the band.

At their heart, Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders has an Americana sound, but there are many different elements embedded within that, that they shouldn't be pigeon holed as such. There are parts of the sound which remind me of They Might Be Giants, Prefab Sprout and Crowded House, all of which also had that ability to deliver big anthemic chorus songs whilst delivering an emotional punch.

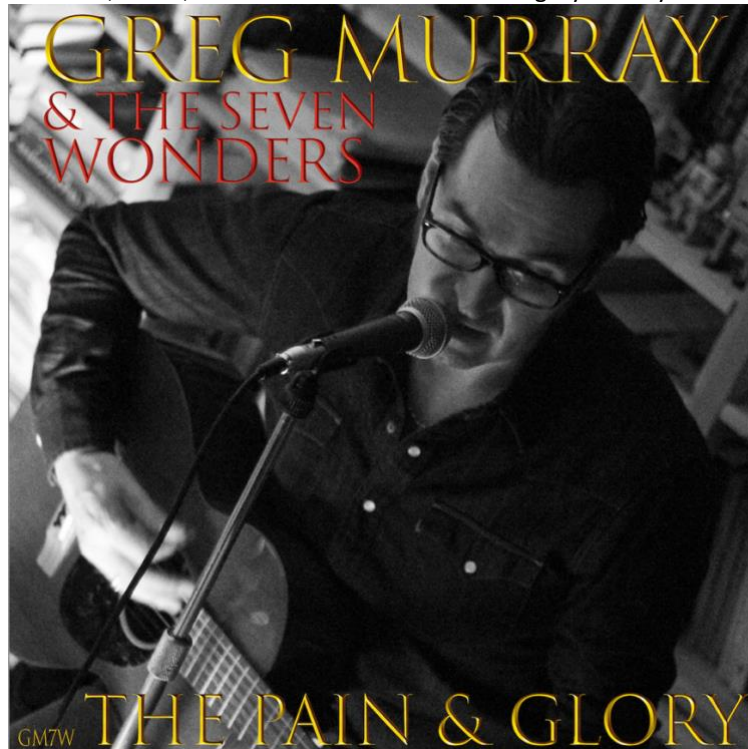
Wish I Was In Love With You is an up-tempo song with instantly catchy melodies, and similar to the aforementioned Crowded House, the band have a way of making a song feel so familiar to you that you are singing along by the end of the chorus. The production is wonderful allowing each element of the band to shine through. By the second verse the combination of plucked guitar, strummed guitar, brass stab and electric guitar chord are so perfectly intertwined, it's a really clever arrangement. The chorus brings it all together perfectly, uplifting and joyous. I would imagine it will be a very popular live song. There is no doubt this is the sound of a band working together really well.

Meanwhile, "The Pain & Glory" is a stark contrast, being very much a ballad. There is so much going on musically – acoustic led with a gorgeous lap steel guitar layered throughout. A beautiful string accompaniment ushers in the chorus and then lyrically this is where Greg grabs you by the heart strings with "The beautiful thing about love is..." This is such a heartfelt track which Greg wrote for his wife following a personal loss. Although musically very different from its accompanying song it does again show how good the writing and musicianship is within the band. "The Pain & Glory"/"Wish I Was In Love With You" is a double single released by a band at their peak. The song writing is of a really high standard worthy of a big audience. I look forward to what the band may have in store for 2024. Read the review here: <https://theleopard.com/greg-murray-seven-wonders-dual-single/>

5th SINGLE

The Pain & Glory (Produced by Catalyst Production 2023)

Words, Music, Artwork & Video – @James Gregory Murray 2023



VIDEO

The Pain & Glory (Produced by Catalyst Production 2023)

Words, Music, Artwork & Video – @James Gregory Murray 2023

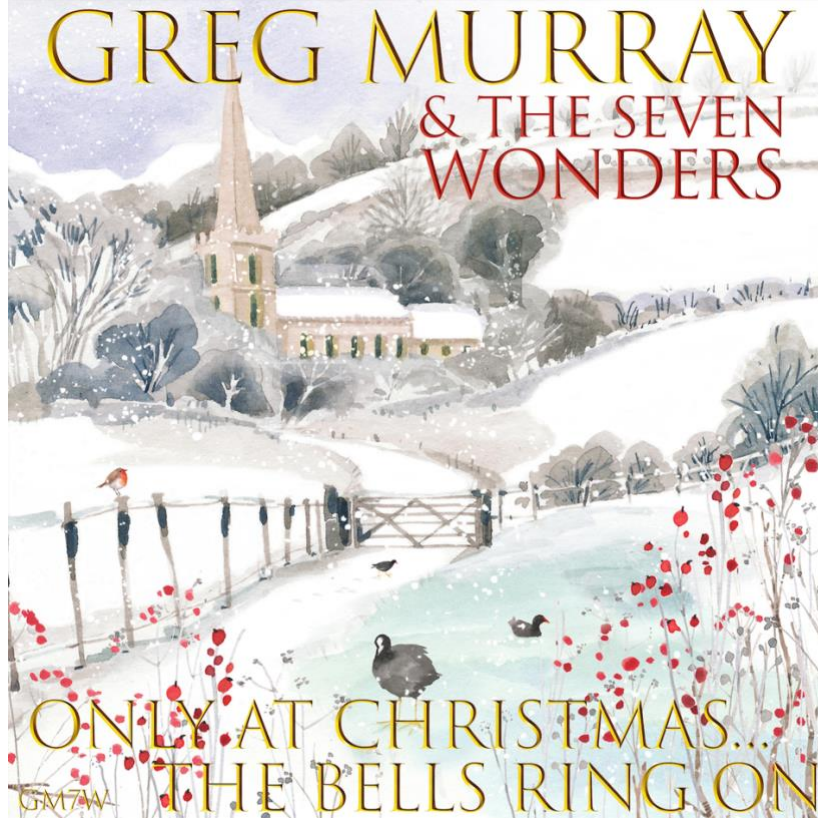
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCCw7nApvSM&list=PLt54ua42iRQqYgr7EJgXcdLDwQi_IM3L3&index=10



6th SINGLE

Only At Christmas...The Bells Ring On (Produced by @James Gregory Murray 2023)

Words, Music & Video – @James Gregory Murray 2023, Artwork by @GMD&L 2023



VIDEO

Only At Christmas...The Bells Ring On (Produced by @James Gregory Murray 2023)

Words, Music & Video – @James Gregory Murray 2023, Artwork by @GMD&L 2023

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYPG20-fgWs&list=PLt54ua42iRQqYgr7EJgXcdLDwQj_IM3L3&index=14



REVIEW OF "ONLY AT CHRISTMAS...THE BELLS RING ON" (NOVEMBER 30, 2023)

Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders have us feeling festive with new Christmas single (Guest review by Captain's Bar events manager, Say Something Music label owner and promoter Scott Evans)

What's the point of a Christmas Song? Growing up in the late 70s early 80s Christmas songs were a staple part of the year, who was going to take the coveted number one spot knowing their song would be immortalised forever, to be dragged out and inflicted on a Christmas shoppers for far too many weeks. But let's be honest we loved them! Even now hearing Slade's anthem can still bring you warm memories of happy simpler times when having the latest Han Solo figure meant the world. And then it all changed. The 'X factor' stepped in and ensured that the festive feel of the Christmas number one was gone, yes Simon Cowell was in fact the Grinch, and now Spotify wrapped tries to fill that hole that Christmas songs used to fill.

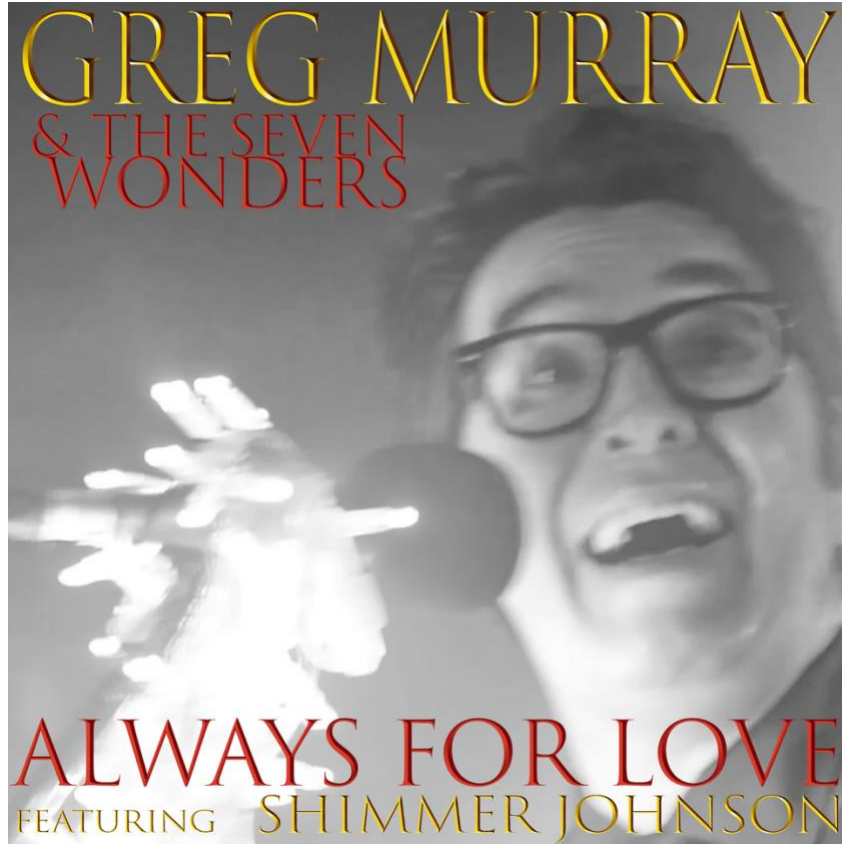
So it's with a pleasant surprise that Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders deliver their second single in as many weeks. Hot on the tails of the superb double release Wish I Was In Love With You and The Pain & Glory comes the festive Only At Christmas...The Bells Ring On. The song has everything you would expect and want from a Christmas single, from the second the song begins those sleigh bells are ringing. As with the latest releases the song feels instantly recognisable, it has a steady rhythm that doesn't give up and only builds as the song progresses. Throughout the song there are simple but effective horns, lovely vocal harmonies and backing vocals, none more effective than in the ear worm of a chorus. All the things that come to mind when you hear a Christmas song are there – you can imagine school children singing it on the last day of term's extended assembly, or it being the closing happy moment of a Christmas film. So the point of a Christmas song? It's to take you away just for a fleeting moment from the horrors of the world and cement happy memories of family, friends, eating too much, the double issue of the radio times, proper snow, circling toys in the catalogue and hoping that you might just get that Han Solo figure. Hats off to Greg and his talented band for delivering this well-crafted Christmas song and gifting a little bit of happiness. Let the Bells Ring On!

Bethan, founder of The Leopard added: "Ah well it truly does feel like Christmas now that Greg Murray and the Seven Wonders have graced us with a jingle bell, holiday infused festive feast for the ears. Whether you're a Buddy the Elf or an Ebenezer Scrooge, there's no doubt this heart-warming record will be the perfect soundtrack for putting up the Christmas tree and enjoying a mulled wine. With its bags of brass, bells and harmonies, this seasonal single is sure to but a smile on your face and spread some holiday cheer, which is often all that's needed this time of year."

Reads the article here: <https://theleopard.com/greg-murray-the-seven-wonders-have-us-feeling-festive-with-new-christmas-single/>

7th SINGLE

Always For Love (Produced by Catalyst Production 2024)
Words, Music, Artwork & Video – ©James Gregory Murray 2024



SINGLE REVIEW "ALWAYS FOR LOVE" (FEBRUARY 14, 2024)

Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders mature pop perfection - 'Always For Love' (Guest review by Captain's Bar events manager, Say Something Music label owner and promoter Scott Evans)

The prolific Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders are back with yet another song, following the five singles from last year and a planned single-a-month for 2024. Does this plan lead to a drop in quality? Especially after last year's superb When I Was In Love With You and The Pain & Glory? Of course not!

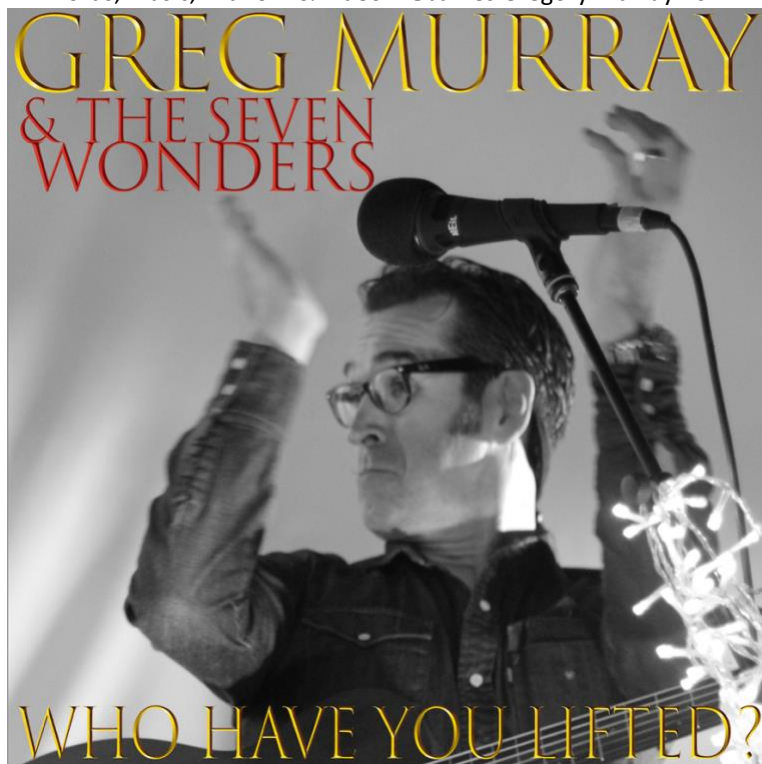
Always For Love is another slice of perfected mature pop. Previously I have compared the band to Crowded House and They Might Be Giants, and that is to say they fall into that ilk of 90s artists who put out great commercial songs that were successful without having to compromise the sound they wanted.

Always for Love starts out with a lovely rumbling piano before tumbling straight into upbeat cacophony of music and instruments that have now become synonymous with the Greg Murray sound. Stabbing Memphis horns pierce the sound over a pumping drum and bass and it's one of those songs that you are so familiar with by the end that you are either singing, dancing or both – and that is a talent that Greg & co have perfected. The surprise twist comes at the end when Shimmer Johnson – a female singer songwriter based in Edmonton Canada – joins the party with her belting soulful voice and the song takes on a more gospel sound to it. It's a great inclusion to the song and closes the track well. Shimmer Johnson has had successes in her own right collaborating with some big songwriters and her husband Corey is a music producer and is responsible for all the production of Greg's songs for the last couple of years in his Canadian based studio. Listeners can expect a year full of new Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders material and if the quality remains this high, it can only be a good thing. I personally look forward to catching some rip-roaring live shows this summer, I'll get my dancing shoes on. Released February 9, listen to 'All For Love' by Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders NOW!

8th SINGLE

Who Have You Lifted? (Produced by Mark Eyden 2024)

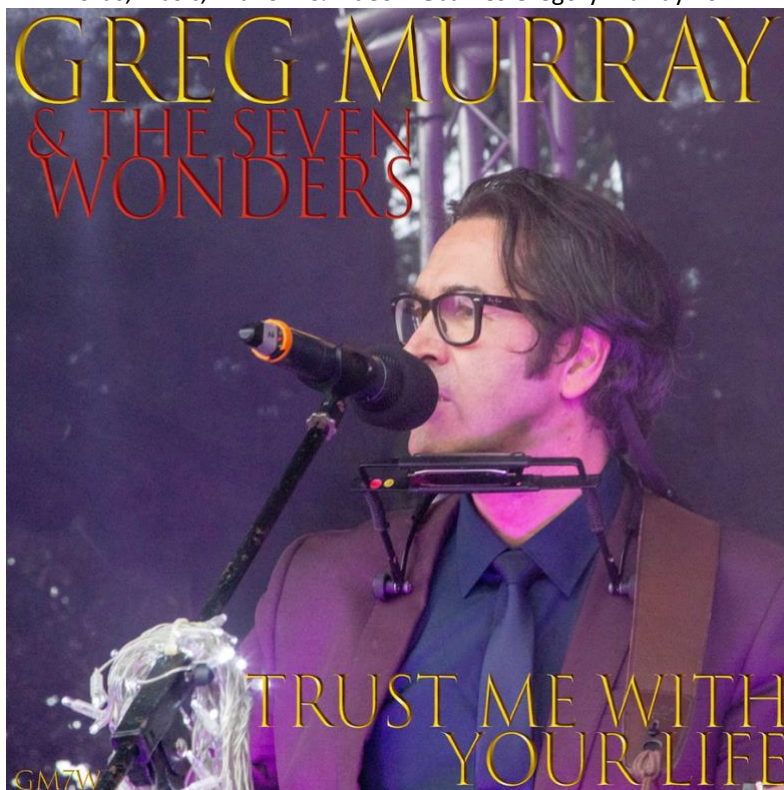
Words, Music, Artwork & Video – @James Gregory Murray 2024



9th SINGLE

Trust Me With Your Life (Produced by Catalyst Production 2024)

Words, Music, Artwork & Video – @James Gregory Murray 2024



SINGLE REVIEW “TRUST ME WITH YOUR LIFE” (APRIL 3, 2024)

Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders deliver third uplifting single of 2024 ‘Trust Me With Your Life’ (Guest review by Captain’s Bar events manager, Say Something Music label owner and promoter Scott Evans)

The ever prolific Greg Murray is back again, and once more shows his ability to write a perfectly formed up-tempo track. ‘Trust Me With Your Life’ is a life affirming brass infused crowd chanting chorus of a song with meaningful lyrics and heart; as Greg puts it “an attempt to give a nod to the injustices in life but trying to keep things optimistic” as demonstrated in the opening verse “And someone is to blame for what we’ve done, the promises keep coming till we’ve won”.

As we have now come to expect with a Murray song the brass is very prevalent, this time it kicks off the song in style, very much setting the uplifting feel of the song.

During the verse there is a really interesting ukulele break puncturing each line, this is quite unusual but works really well, and I absolutely adore the half tempo pre-chorus with its subtle piano and guitar line under the lyric “Holy shit I’ve made a mess of it, I’ve torn out your heart and let it sit” before delivering the upbeat, danceable course.

One of the things I really like about Greg Murray and his band is that they write songs in a quite unconventional manner that most artists avoid nowadays, a good example of this is the song, finishing with almost a minute of instrumental, this must work really well in a live environment and it’s just really nice to hear on the studio recording showing the band are not compromising on their songs just to fit in with a Spotify trend.

I’m sure by the time this review is published, Greg and co will already be preparing for the next release. (Just checked, yep – ‘Who Would Have Thought Of Sending Flowers’ will be out on Friday 26th April). It’s going to be interesting to see by the end of the year all of the songs collected together in what would be a really strong album. In the meantime, do all you can to catch Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders live for this is where they will truly shine.

Listen to Trust Me With Your Life, released March 15 with Words & Music by James Gregory Murray

10th SINGLE

Flowers (Produced by Catalyst Production 2024)

Words & Music – @James Gregory Murray 2024, Artwork by @GMD&L 2024



APRIL 28, 2024 REVIEW OF "FLOWERS"

Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders' stirring new single 'Flowers'...

In a collision of genres and emotions, Staffordshire's own Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders have unveiled their latest single, 'Who Would Have Thought Of Sending Flowers (Flowers)'. It's the band's tenth single in 12 months and is one that reaffirms James Gregory Murray's position as a storyteller of the highest order.

The stirring new single blooms with a raw honesty that cuts through the intricate soundscapes, offering a cathartic journey through the complexities of human emotion, exploring the different ways in which people approach grief and loss.

When asked what the track means to him, Murray earnestly tells The Leopheard: "It's the end of a relationship tale of heartbreak and regret, I'm afraid. But all triggered by a good friend who brought a great big bunch of colourful flowers to our friend's funeral. My association of flowers is not one of funerals, which I thought very unusual but also very fitting in an unusual way.

"I couldn't get the imagery out of my head, for as everyone was giving mass cards and condolences for the loss of our friend to his widow, my friend offered her a great big bunch of flowers – in a strange way, it was quite lovely and fitting."

The emotive swell of guitars, bass and keys are reminiscent of an REM track, while Murray's vocals infuse it with shimmering resonance akin to a-ha – if Morten Harket had a soft Northern Irish lilt, that is. Murray's lyricism is poignant yet uplifting, with beautiful harmonies that create a soul-stirring chorus that soars above the instrumentation.

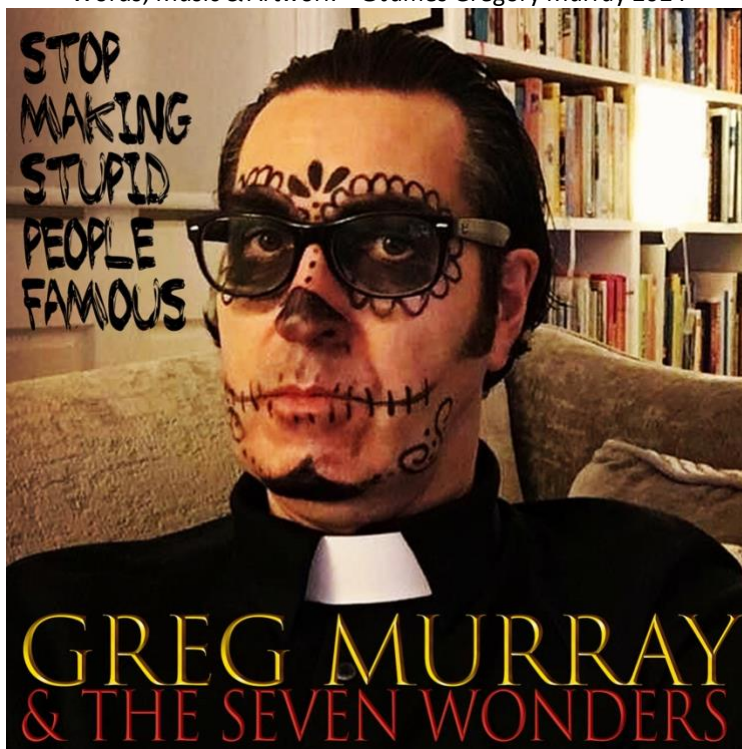
But for me what is most prominent in every single one of the records released by Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders, but more so in 'Flowers', is the sense of community and camaraderie between the bandmates. This is a gang of friends who want you to listen, get involved and feel the positive emotion that is put into each and every song. When a close friend or family member passes away, it quite often has this effect of bringing people closer together – and that sense of unity and hope really radiates through this heart-torn ballad.

If you fancy feeling like a part of something really special and the opportunity for a bit of a jig, you can catch Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders at the Artisan Tap on May 4. Here's a review of their performance the last time I caught them at the Hartshill venue – and you can listen to their newest single, 'Flowers', released April 26.

11th SINGLE

Stop Making Stupid People Famous (Produced by Catalyst Production 2024)

Words, Music & Artwork – ©James Gregory Murray 2024



MAY 31, 2024 REVIEW OF 'STOP MAKING STUPID PEOPLE FAMOUS'

Listen to Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders' new single (and) Stop Making Stupid People Famous (**Guest review by photographer Ellie Potter, @LifeOnDSLR**)

Self-described as purveyors of “life affirming anthemic songs of love and loss”, Greg Murray and The Seven Wonders eleventh single in eight months lyrically pursuits into political slant while staying faithful to his uplifting sound.

The track begins, and almost immediately hops into the heavy drums that cement his collective genres into the track – the guitar almost following along behind the vocals before ringing out at the pre-chorus. The overall feel remains light-hearted, despite the lyrics gently criticising “the whole wide world” for not evaluating their voting decisions and overall morals when picking political figures, or ‘representatives’ of generations.

When discussing the inspirations of the track, Murray told The Leopard: “Our leaders [...] are more intent on pursuing their own careers and power” becoming “unrepresentative” of the morals they were elected to uphold and “represent”, “[the] song aims to bring awareness [...] to trust our human nature and call it out when it feels wrong”.

“It won’t be until we’re on our deathbeds that the reality will sink in, if we’re not careful,” he added.

As the song progresses and other instruments, recognisably trumpets and percussion, join into the composition to keep the positive feel going. As an avid listener of political music, it’s heartwarming to have a song that criticises constructively, rather than being heavy rock that doesn’t lift spirits or empower change.

If you’re feeling inspired leading up to the general election, you can listen to their latest single (and) Stop Making Stupid People Famous here from the May 31.

12th SINGLE

Show & Tell (Produced by Catalyst Production 2024)

Words, Music & Artwork – ©James Gregory Murray 2024

GREG MURRAY & THE SEVEN WONDERS



JUNE 28, 2024 REVIEW OF “SHOW & TELL” SINGLE REVIEW

Gather around for Greg Murray & The Seven Wonder’s Show & Tell. Words by Zakk Pea, writer and musician at Eccie The Dog and event organiser at Plot Twist.

First of all, I love folk music. Secondly, there’s bloody loads of them. Normally I’d pick out the instruments by ear, but the man himself was happy to furnish me with the details. Show & Tell begins gently with soft and plucky bass guitar, evoking images of an old upright bass on a dusty porch. The acoustic guitar strums softly on the off-beat, borrowing from genres like Ska and Reggae, but still retaining that Irish Country feel. This is bolstered by Greg’s beautifully bright but well-textured voice that carries the motion for a couple of stanzas until the trumpet and drums appear.

The drums keep it light, and the trumpet rings out in sunny stabs, until the chorus kicks in. You get more of the low drums against falling trumpets and soaring vocals, with the introduction of some electric guitar that turns the warmth from the trumpet to a more powerful heat, and all of it punctuated by a little mournful violin. Which puts me in mind of the meaning behind it all.

Greg tells us that Show & Tell is ‘a love song about two people who dream of growing old together, but fear they probably won’t’. The first verse talks about putting our hearts on the line, will our love be requited? Not only that, but will our heart be held to the end of our days? Until then our hearts reside in the US, which has long been the escape for many Irish people, or Tir Na Nog, some far Western isle where everyone stays young and happy. It’s about that fantastic excitement for what might become of us.

The second verse paints a fragmented vignette of that final embrace, the last time we walk away from someone we were once so desperate to love. We all enter into romance with this beautiful optimism, and dreams of what might lay on the horizon, but so often we fall short through no exceptional fault of our own, and I feel the music of Show & Tell expertly illustrates these conflicting emotions.

Released June 28, you can listen to Show & Tell NOW.

13th SINGLE

Lay Your Head Down (Produced by Mark Eyden at Sun Street Studios 2024)

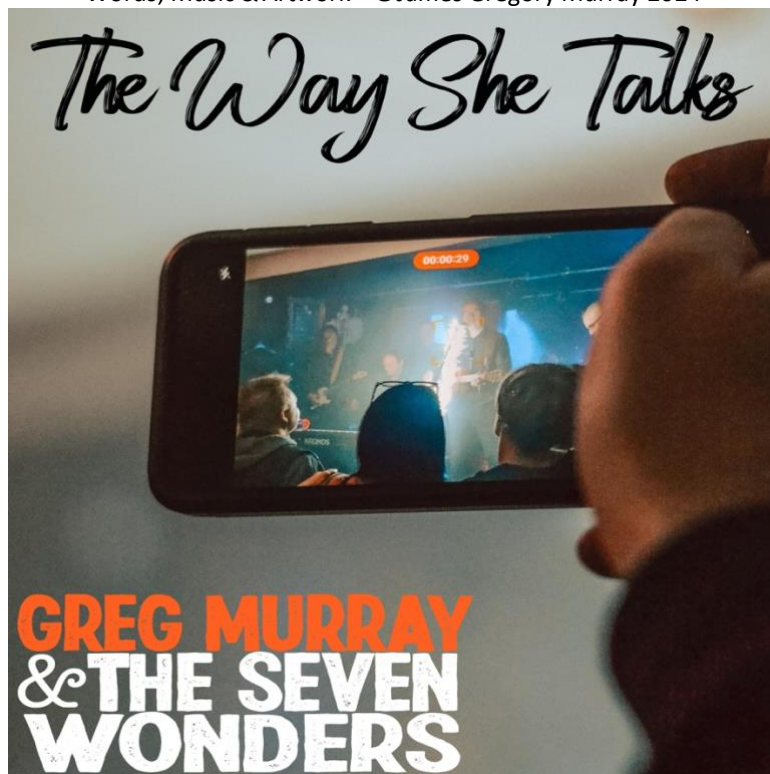
Words, Music & Artwork – ©James Gregory Murray 2024



14th SINGLE

The Way She Talks (Produced by Mark Eyden at Sun Street Studios 2024)

Words, Music & Artwork – ©James Gregory Murray 2024



15th SINGLE

Yeah Yeah (Produced by Catalyst Production 2024)

Words, Music & Artwork – ©James Gregory Murray 2024



16th SINGLE

Tore My Heart Out (Produced by Catalyst Production 2024)

Words, Music & Artwork – ©James Gregory Murray 2024



LIVE SHOW REVIEWS

Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders stuns Artisan Tap - Review by Bethan Shufflebotham

02.03.23

I love an unconventional gig and what's more non-conformist than a pub decorated with dismembered dolls, a spoken word poet and an eight-piece Irish/Americana indie rock supergroup? On Thursday evening, I headed back to Artisan Tap following a stellar Camp Stag gig a few weeks back, to catch James Gregory Murray and The Seven Wonders, otherwise known as Greg Murray and The Seven Wonders, or GM7W – and it was wonder they promised, and wonder they certainly delivered.

Born in Northern Ireland but settled in Stoke-on-Trent, Greg Murray picked up his first guitar at the age of 14 and put it straight back down again, but growing up around live music sessions in his dad's bar listening to his family singing and playing Irish favourites, it was no surprise that he soon picked up the string instrument once more. Greg's discography spans some 20 years now, and over the years he has recruited a fantastic band of musicians, which he leads with charisma and Northern Irish charm.

It's the band's first time playing The Artisan Tap, though you'd never have thought it. They looked comfortable on the comically small stage as they held inside jokes with friends and family in the audience, a string of fairy lights illuminating the vocalist's face. They kicked off the night with Love As If, followed by Pretend They Love You and If You Love Me Let Me Know. If we were in a pub quiz, one might ask what links these tracks, but it's obvious. It was felt all around that cosy, quirky pub. After a personal loss, Greg channeled the negative emotions in his life into something that he could manage and cope with, which is so beautifully reflected in their music, their lyrics filled with faith, and melodies of positivity. It almost felt biblical at times, the congregation having gathered to share in this wondrous experience.

Greg has a simply stunning way with words, brought to life by the menagerie of musicians beside him, influenced by a number of genres from Americana and Latino, to alternative indie rock, but each and every one of them has this Irish twang that makes it feel like a jig, and it's impossible not to tap your toes to. From ballads to barn-dances, 'death country' to reggae folk, it'd be redundant to say that they're the best at what they do, because I'm not sure anyone else does it.

People laughed, listened and danced to uplifting heart-warming melodies and life-affirming lyrics as glasses steamed up and beers were sunk, you really can't help but feel the message of love and light that radiates from the soundwaves they produce. Earnest and emotional, heartfelt and awe-inspiring, Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders fostered an other-worldly warm glow of an atmosphere at The Artisan Tap. If I didn't know before, I know how they got their name now.

I've been to a number of gigs where you might find yourself watching the clock wondering when that final track may come after only 45 minutes, but at Artisan Tap, the energy was just something else, and as I looked around the room and the music lovers fully immersed in the music, hearts well and truly full, I realized that I was witness to something incredibly special.

https://theleopard.com/greg-murray-seven-wonders-artisan-tap-nick-degg/?fbclid=IwAROSmaTgZD0UdYFXkVE95KvVOzRmf9QvlKyjmLqsL8zpyzc_jG80f1mHkyA

TESTIMONIALS

"Sometimes you are in the right place at the right time. Never heard of Greg and the band before (sorry!) but took a chance on a night out at the Artisan Tap on Thursday! Best decision I've made all year! What an amazing night of wonderful musicianship, beautiful songs and great camaraderie between Greg and the fab audience! I can't stop telling everyone I know to get to the next gig. And great sound from Wayne. He even let me have a go at working the lights! . . . sorry band! Thanks again Greg & The Seven Wonders for the best night ever!"

GM7W

"Last night, the James Gregory Murray & The Seven Wonders gig was just what we needed! Amazing as usual, thank you Artisan Tap for having them on!"

GM7W

"Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders were absolutely top notch - what a voice!!! Nick Degg Poet

GM7W

"A great afternoon at Lichfield Festival and was blown away by Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders. Instant catchy tunes from a charismatic Irish vocalist. It's hard to pigeon hole this hybrid country folk but their energy is infectious."

GM7W

"What a fantastic band and charismatic singer – brilliant!"

GM7W

"Absolute joy watching these guys at The Lymelight Festival yesterday!! Must see them again. Real music played by real people drawn straight from the heart!"

GM7W

Terry Hughes - 365 Radio/Radio Caroline: "The catchiest song of 2022, by far. Surely it will be one of the hits of the summer!"

GM7W

"Original songs and awesome line up. They will get you up on your feet dancing! Just incredible positive original music."

GM7W

"Top set at Lichfield Fuse Festival 2018. Instant catchy tunes and a front man in Greg that draws you into their music with his wit and charismatic Irish charm and classy vocals to boot. Hope to see you live again soon. Where can I get your music? — feeling entertained."

GM7W

"James Gregory Murray you and the band got loads of people up dancing and left an amazingly positive vibe as per usual! Amazing! Xx"

GM7W

"What can I say, brilliant set from Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders, although there were definitely more than 7 tonight (more like 14 Wonders!), cracker, loved every minute of it as did the rest of the audience

GM7W

"James Gregory Murray top night matey, hope you have cooled off now."

GM7W

"Thank you Greg...You and the band are absolutely brilliant. Wasn't feeling myself but after your first chord I was hooked with your positivity and life affirming uplifting music - such spirit. I wish someone could bottle it."

GM7W

"It was a pleasure having you with us Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders! Incredible set and fantastic getting the youngsters and crowd up on stage with you!"

GM7W

"Just seen this band for the first time...Amazing, I loved them and can't wait to see them again. Such a positive upbeat message of optimism. X"

GM7W

"GM7W may have nearly caused a heart attack for the festival organizers, thanks to their ever-growing line-up of musicians, and their truly magical and "wonder"-ful feast to the eyes – I pitied the band coming on after them!!"

GM7W

"Just watched Greg Murray & the sensational Seven - woah what a band, trumpet, trombone, sax, keyboards, bass n lead guitars, drums n vocals, the place was rocking, audience participation was compulsory, felt sorry for the next band on as they're a hard act to follow."

GM7W

"I watched this band last year at the Acoustic Festival of Great Britain and was so pleased to hear that they were appearing again this year. I've just watched them play their set tonight and it was even better than last year!"

GM7W

"Brilliant band, great songs and they get the very best out of the audience - everyone up dancing and singing! Well worth checking them out if you love great music or, if you are a music promoter, getting them to play a venue or festival!"

GM7W

"Greg is an amazing singer and the whole band are crazy talented with a great energy. Lovely upbeat tunes and loads of fun :) thanks for a great night in the Salford Arms."

GM7W

"If you need cheering up, this should do it!"

GM7W

Terry Hughes - Radio Caroline/365 Radio: One of my listeners, Susi, messaged me about your song: "It was incredibly catchy, I loved it and I was humming it in my head for days!"

GM7W

CONTACT/LINKS

Email: gregmurrayuk@gmail.com

GM7W HOME

<https://www.GM7W.com>

JGM HOME

<http://www.GREGMURRAY.co.uk>

Facebook (JGM)

<https://www.facebook.com/jamesgregorymurray1>

Facebook (GM7W)

<https://www.facebook.com/gm7wmusic/>

Spotify (JGM)

<https://open.spotify.com/artist/4pQTUEDIA5sS9VwW7wBODI>

Spotify (GM7W)

<https://open.spotify.com/artist/6EAajvifQXFHYiMvSgpY5E?si=d82yGe6CQ92qzZ6PLFQHwA>

Soundcloud (JGM)

<https://soundcloud.com/jamesgregorymurray>

YouTube (JGM)

<https://www.youtube.com/@gregmurrayuk>

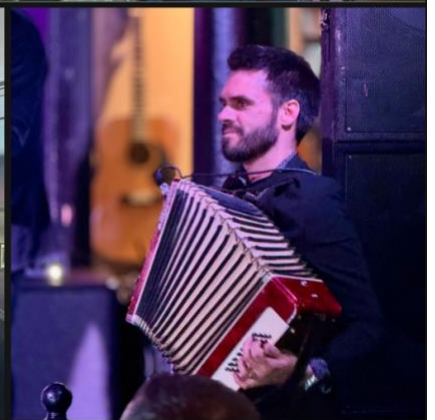
YouTube (GM7W)

<https://www.youtube.com/@GM7W>

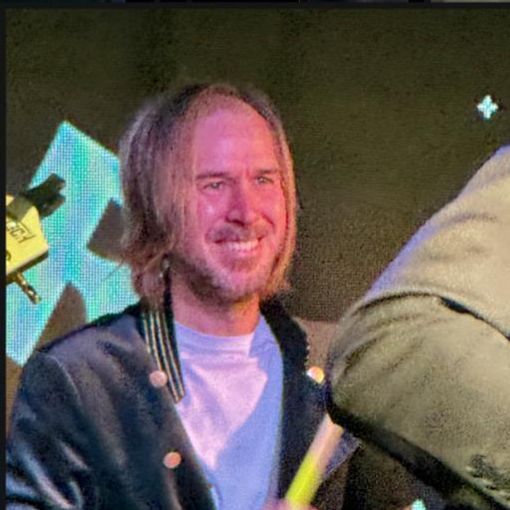




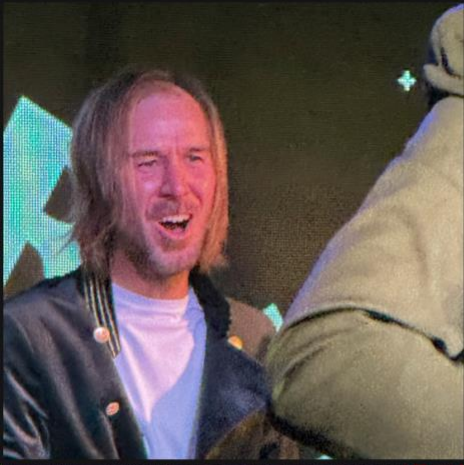


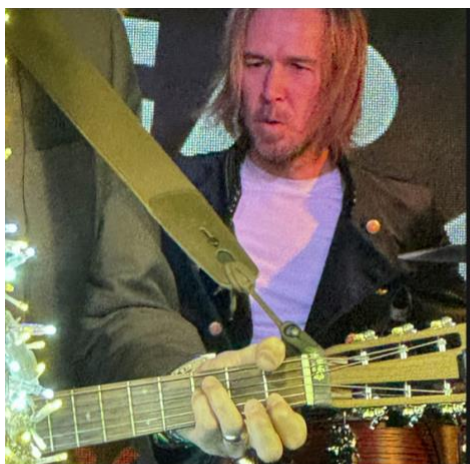




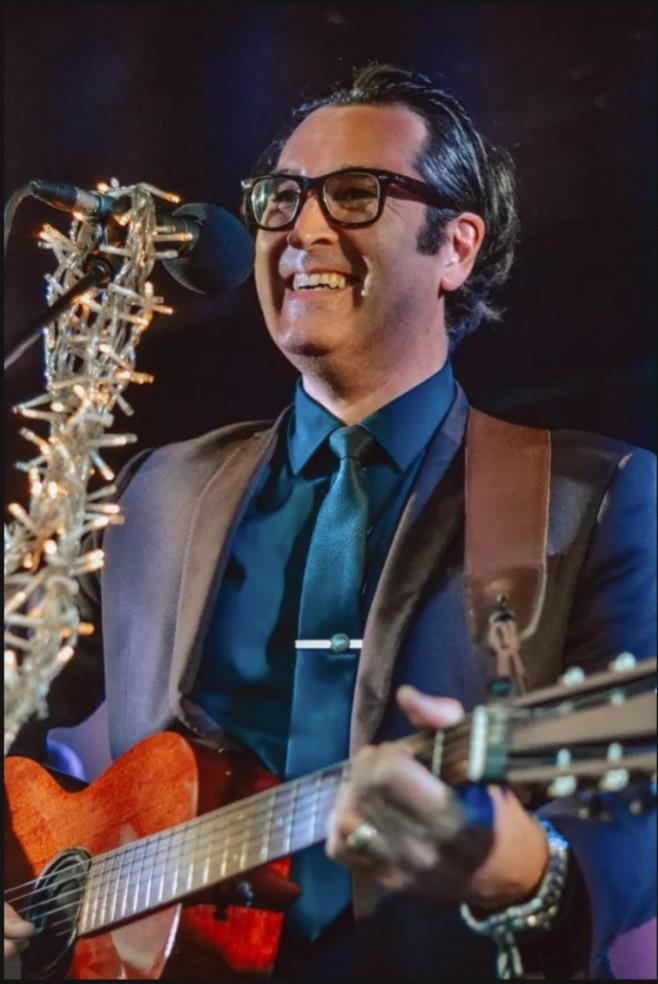




















Sentinel Article Wed 12th June 2024

Hey Greg, thank you for chatting to me! You have been recently brought to my attention by Scott Evans! Greg, I love what your doing! No Idea why I haven't already heard from you. So tell me about yourself and where your from.

Hi Rob,

Lovely to hear from you.

I'm an Irish singer-songwriter who has been very successfully disguising himself as a maths teacher for many years in a very well known Catholic High School in the city looking after pastoral care and everything mathematical for as long as I can remember. I'm from Lurgan, County Armagh in Northern Ireland and I have been based in Newcastle-under-Lyme for many years though I still keep my Irish

connections as fresh as my family and friends will allow.

I had a listen to your music and it's so uplifting and hear quite a mix of genres and influences! How would you describe your music?

I like to think so Rob – a pretty spiritually positive up-lifting sound is how my music has been described and I'll take that. Not all my material is as positive though as I address love, loss and everything in between. I love a great turn of phrase and at times the euphoric melody just won't allow it but I attempt to do my best. Our drummer used a great genre style which I thought was very fitting: Irish-Americanana!! Yeah we'll stick with that.

You have a few videos on Instagram of you in action on stage. Greg you certainly have a great stage presence and have a look of Elvis Costello, have you been told that before?

Yes indeed...the social platforms are full to the seams with live pics and festivals that we've played. Kind of you to say about the stage presence – I just love getting out and enjoying the music and playing to the crowds for no stage presence of stage craft has ever been rehearsed - for I know so many performers who play the circuit with us but by the looks of them they're far too cool to get worked up to try to put on a great show and sometimes even give the impression that the audience owe them a living. Just to get out there to entertain is a great honour and a luxury that we as a band do not take for granted. The audience are the most important part of the equation and this I'm afraid some local acts and even international acts forget to realise. But Elvis Costello – yes indeed a few times in the past...I think it's the glasses!

So your full band name is "Greg Murray and the seven wonders", I'm guessing that's as there are seven of you in total?

Yeah Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders is the name but does not relate to the number of musicians. We've headlined numerous festivals across the midlands like the Acoustic Festival of Great Britain as a 14 piece at one time with a 6 piece brass section!! But that has proved madness to organise with musicians who are good friends but really most do not understand the rigors of playing live, rehearsing, writing and getting very little for it as covers acts are so readily available to fill a void in many venues who don't have an interest in new original music. Every city in the UK/world are currently experiencing this so the chance of bands breaking via the live circuit is next to impossible. For the really good shows, it just so happened that the full posse so happen to be free!! Go figure! But we have an absolutely amazing line up who represent the songs and music so effortlessly and beautifully who make the construction and rehearsing of new material so spirited as they wish to be involved in new music recordings and studio work coming soon.

Did you originally set out to have a seven piece band?

Not in the slightest – Fleetwood Mac's song – The Seven Wonders was the influence for that one...I have a jumping CD in my car where I have never heard the whole song from start to finish but ironically my son thought of the name on a very long car ride to Cornwall one summer. He's a commercial pilot now and he's to blame for the name.

Are you all local or can it be difficult meeting up for rehearsals etc.?

Yes all local now after learning the hard way with regards rehearsals, etc.

How long have you been singing and performing for?

You don't want to know...started writing after playing the tenor sax and then began writing on acoustic/electric guitar way before I came over to England. Most of the original acts performing now were not born when I was first gigging in the midlands.

Where do you record?

I record at home now but I have recorded at numerous places across the UK. During Covid, I was lucky to be able to work with a production company based in Edmonton, Canada who mixed and mastered a large number of my songs for a future album release.

Your track "Flowers" is definitely more pop, do you love experimenting with different styles?

The guys in my band are my sounding board as I write often with many thousands of songs written down and recorded through the years. I'll attempt to make sure that everyone is different and give that to them as my brief before we attempt to build it into the live set. Pop, Indie, Lo-fi, Rock, Blues, Celtic, Irish, Soul even Reggae are all genre that we have in our current set...who know where things go from one song to the next. It's a wide open playing field as long as the song is a good one.

I see you recently played The Cavern Club in Liverpool, that must of been an amazing experience?

Unbelievable!! The stage sound was one of the best I have ever encountered but the very best show of that weekend was at the Cavern Pub across the way from the Club. We arrived in after playing the Cavern Club two hours previously where I told the crowd that we'd be playing the pub in a few hours not knowing the size of the venue nor stage. The stage was around the size of a small car and I had a seven piece in tow. Needless to say most of us were playing in the crowd with the audience inches away from our faces and talk about seat of the pants stuff – it was the most amazing experience we've ever had. No sound check – straight in and hoping for the best but what a crowd – most coming over from our earlier set at the Club and most ready to party and jump straight in. We had nowhere to hide and we played the best set ever.

When and where can we see you next?

All of our shows are posted on our sites at www.GM7W.com/live and www.GREGMURRAY.co.uk/live but our next few shows are as follows:

15/06/24 THE MIDDLEWICH FOLK & BOAT FESTIVAL (SAT 8.30-9.30PM) – MIDDLEWICH

27/07/24 HOGARTHS GIN PALACE (SAT 6.00-8.00PM) – NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME

29/07/24 THE NARROWBOAT SESSIONS (MON 6.00PM) – KIDSGROVE

23/08/24 THE ACOUSTIC & ALE FESTIVAL (FRI 9.00-10.30PM) – MARBURY PARK, NORTHWICH

07/09/24 THE CAPTAIN'S BAR (SAT 8.00-10.00PM) – HANLEY

05/10/24 BRIAN'S 60TH (SAT 8.00-11.00PM) – PRIVATE PARTY

19/10/24 THE JUG (SAT 7.00-11.00PM) – NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME

Have you done any physical releases like CD's or Vinyl?

2010 was my first cd release of 'Tymes Ten' which is on all the streaming platforms but I have physical versions if anyone would like one. I'm hoping to assemble all of our single releases, which we are releasing one a month, and we are now on our 12th single to be released on Fri 28th June 2024 called "Show & Tell". Beth and Scott at Leopheard do an amazing job championing all the local original acts

and their names should be in lights for what they do for the music community.

Do you like the Lightning Seeds by any chance?

Not particularly Rob. A few good radio friendly tunes but I did like their album artwork of the big strawberry.

Anyone you have supported that we would all know?

Supergrass at the Wheatsheaf many years ago where Gaz Coombes said he loved my voice! The Stranglers in another venue around the corner from the Wheatsheaf – again Hugh Cornwall commenting on how he loved my voice...common theme there. Supported Echobelly and Pele were meant to play and called in sick so I played with my band instead and the Wheatsheaf was swinging. The Christians and Chris Difford supported me at the Acoustic Festival of Great Britain two years on the trot. Glenn Tilbrook woke me up in my sleep one cold winter night and invited me downstairs to sing with him...a story for another time.

I should imagine you play quite a few outdoor gigs and festivals?

I just love festivals the best as I love getting the crowd involved with drums/percussion/tambourines/singing...it's what it's all about. For we're a far longer time dead.

Do you perform much outside of the U.K?

Not yet...though we have been invited to Berlin/Copenhagen/Stockholm as part of the IPO Festival and even NYC/San Francisco!!

When do you have new music out?

Once a month – next one Fri 28th June 2024 “Show & Tell” – Stream music by Greg Murray & The Seven Wonders and James Gregory Murray. I'd really love to get involved in your radio show Rob – just let me know how and I'll be there. Thank you so much for the opportunity to be interviewed and here's to meeting you in the flesh soon.

Kindest regards Rob,

Greg