

Jim Harper

singer/songwriter

Jim Harper is a singer/songwriter based in Ithaca, New York. His repertoire is eclectic—in one set you might hear songs from Gilbert & Sullivan, Bob Dylan, Flanders & Swann, and John Prine, as well as traditional folk songs and his own handcrafted works.

Harper started his singing career in second grade—in the children's choir in his church—and honed his voice through years singing in church and school choirs in his home town. "Even the summer camps I went to were music-related," says Jim. He started playing guitar in his early teens by learning all the songs in his Pete Seeger and Lennon & McCartney songbooks. He wrote his first songs while he was still in high school.

Jim Harper grew up in the suburbs of Chicago, the son of transplanted Minnesota natives. His mother exposed him to labor union songs, as well as the songs of her favorite musician—Bob Dylan. His father's musical tastes were more in the classical vein, and Jim's music reflects this influence, too. His high school choir (under the direction of the late, great Jay Hoel) did dozens of concerts each year, in musical styles ranging from "swing choir" to masses and motets. In addition, he was also a devoted fan of WFMT's long-running "Midnight Special" radio program, which further broadened—some say warped—his musical horizons. You can hear many of these influences in his concerts, and you never know what he may do next.

Harper is not only a musician, but an accomplished visual artist as well. When he first went to college, he worried about becoming a music major since "I had two left hands on the piano, despite years of parent-funded piano lessons." He had gotten a taste of metalsmithing while at National Music Camp in Interlochen, Michigan, "and I was hooked." He ended up majoring in the Visual Arts in college, and has both a BFA and MA in Sculpture and Metal-working. He works in metal, glass, wood, and many other materials.

He is not just an artist, though—Jim also has a degree in Computing, and spent a number of years in the PhD program in Education at Cornell University. For the past eight years his "day job" was as a stay-at-home-dad for his daughter, his twin boys, and their cousin.

Now he splits his time between making and marketing his visual arts work through Jim Harper Designs (<http://www.jimharperdesigns.com/>), and sharing his passion for music with a wide range of audiences.

Harper's performances are filled with songs that make people sit up, pay attention, sing-along and laugh out loud! He plays guitar and several other instruments.

For more information you can visit Jim's website at: <http://www.jimharpermusic.com/>



Photo credit: Thomas Hoebbel



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In concert!

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Jim Harper is a singer/songwriter based in Ithaca, New York. His voice is rich and powerful, and he sings an amazingly eclectic mix of songs. In any set you often hear everything from old comic ballads to songs of contemporary songwriters, as well as traditional folk songs and his own handcrafted works. Come check him out!



www.jimharpermusic.com