

## **some video and tv**



Link to BBC news feature on Chris:

<http://search.bbc.co.uk/cgi-bin/search/results.pl?q=taxi+songwriters&tab=av&scope=all>



Link to ITV news feature on Chris:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFBNHznngxw>

“Get Up” music video

<http://vids.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=vids.showvids&friendID=57066417&n=57066417&MyToken=ac1dcdf6-9b9a-49af-a4d7-99b69242c5ee>

## some **press clippings**



**DRIVING FORCE  
OF CHRIS' TOUR**



SINGER songwriter Chris Singleton is breaking the UK by playing open top buses, underground trains and even taxi cabs.

The Dubliner — whose debut album *Twisted Cities* is currently taking London by storm — has come up with a novel way of gigging.

Rather than playing half-full clubs and venues in the capital city, Chris has been serving up his music on the Tube, on open-topped buses and in black taxis.

He said: "It's called the Twisted Tour of London and basically it's playing live music on the public transport system in Greater London.

"We have done double decker tour buses and tubes and now we plan to play the back of a taxi with a full band. The audience will be made up of two competition winners

ing to Zutons frontman Dave McCab treated his band like dirt. He said: "We were made up to be playing with the lads. Liverpoolians and Dubliners always get on well so we thought we'd have a laugh.

"But they treated us like we were part of the crew, and barely acknowledged us.

"They acted like they were the best thing since the bloody Beatles — but where are they now?"

bundled into the back of a cab with a full band.

"There won't be much space and I suppose when the meter runs out the show is over."

Talented Chris moved to London two years ago, hoping to break into the English music market.

And despite settling in across the water Chris's heart belongs firmly in Dublin.

He said: "Sure there are more opportunities over here but there is so much more competition.

"I do miss Dublin and it is amazing how much it has changed in the short time I have been away.

"Pubs I used to go to regularly are gone or have been turned into a superclub.

"And I find London a bit intense."

● Chris will play his return to Dublin gig in *Crawdaddy* next April 18.

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ip "We've been doing our  
own thing for five years and  
is, we're just going to carry on."  
Al- While they encourage people  
ea- we were seeing that...  
really cool...  
just hang out at a bar, ...

PREVIEW | FREE GIGS

## Musical omnibus

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HERE are three things to consider:

1. They have their charm but your typical London gig venue is a total pit.
2. London transport is dull, although a certain paper does brighten journeys.
3. Singer-songwriter Chris Singleton will be performing four gigs on four different modes of transport.

Inspired by his London-themed album *Twisted City*,

Dubliner Chris will play gigs on a bus, a boat, a Tube train and possibly the smallest concert venue ever: a cab.

They are all absolutely free and start tonight on a Routemaster bus which will tour the capital.

Still not convinced? Even Chris Tarrant is a fan: "I've been playing *Twisted City* very loud in my car. It really is good stuff." Well there you go, it must be good then.

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CITY | Chris Singleton will gig on public transport

### TIMETABLE

**Bus:** Tonight at 6.30pm a Routemaster will depart Cambridge Terrace, Outer Circle, Regent's Park, for a tour of sites which inspired Chris's album. Join the queue by 6.20pm

**Boat:** 10 Feb, 5pm, from Tower Millennium pier to Cherry Garden pier

**Taxi:** 16 Feb, 6.30pm, in the back of a black cab. He will be running a competition at [www.myspace.com/chrisingleton](http://www.myspace.com/chrisingleton) for two "tickets" to the show

**Tube:** 23 Feb, 2.30pm, exact location to be announced

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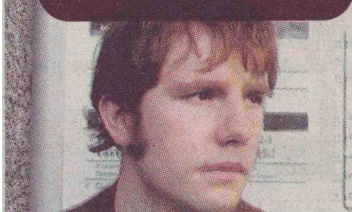
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# DAILY EXPRESS

Yet another celtic troubadour who wears his influences proudly on his sleeve. There are nods to the Beatles, Ray Davies and Neil Finn in this confident collection of songs. Inspired by Singleton's weary traveling across the UK and Ireland, "Twisted City" is an express train of emotions.

## THE IRISH TIMES

### WHO THE HELL IS ?



### Chris Singleton

**Tube trip:** New to London? Don't know your way round the city? Then let Dubliner Chris Singleton take you by the hand and lead you through the streets of London – or, more accurately, through the London Underground. Ever since Singleton started going to London to visit his girlfriend, he has been fascinated with the tube, and his debut album, *Twisted City*, takes the listener on a sort of magical mystery tube tour, each song representing a different stop on the line and exploring Chris's different impressions of life and love in this sprawling metropolis. *Twisted City* opens with the sound of a train departure announcement – could this signal the start of Chris Singleton's own journey to pop glory?

**Paper trail:** This young Dubliner's musical journey began with the summery, psychedelic sounds of The Beatles, Pink Floyd and The Kinks, and the glam-rock stomp of T. Rex, The Sweet and David Bowie. The 1960s and '70s influences are apparent in such songs as *Worry Number One*, *Stop Following* and new single *Get Up*, but there are also nods to such respected songsmiths as Andy Partridge and Neil Finn. Singleton scribbled the album's lyrics on the backs of train tickets, airplane boarding cards and pieces of paper he picked up along the

way. He also played, recorded and produced the album, and even set up his own record label to release it.

**Noise annoys:** Chris's music was never destined to be dull or monochrome: he experiences a rare phenomenon called synaesthesia, in which sounds and words become a kaleidoscope of colours in his head. He also has a rather less benign ear condition, hyperacusis, which causes him to find everyday noise painful and unbearable. You'd imagine London – or a recording studio – would be the last place someone with an allergy to sound would want to be, but Chris's love of music won the day, and he mastered his ailment long enough to master the album in Abbey Road studios.

**Launch platform:** Chris launched the album – where else? – on the tube, and the record quickly garnered positive reviews from the underground and overground press. The *Daily Express* called it "an express train of emotions", and The Ticket likened it to Paul McCartney when he was fab. And on the day he launched the album, ITV ran a news feature on Cathy with the catchy, well-crafted pop tunes. It wasn't long before Universal Music Group caught wind of this new talent and signed the young Dubliner up to a distribution deal in Ireland and the UK. Chris releases a new single, *Get Up*, on Brown Paper/Universal at the end of this month. He's also doing a few dates in London with a band that includes keyboardist Andy Fleet, drummer Joe "JC" Caddy, Spanish bassist Zane Maertens and Cypriot guitarist Stelios Kaisperides.

**Kevin Courtney**



(London)

## Tube CD hits the right note

MUSICIAN Chris Singleton (pictured) is hoping his new album, *Twisted City*, will be more than an underground hit, even with its strong connections to the Tube.

During frequent visits to the capital, Dubliner Chris wrote the album on the back of boarding cards, Tube tickets or newspapers found at railway stations. It represents a Tube journey through London, with each song signifying a stop on the Underground.

In fitting style, Chris launched the album yesterday with performances at Leicester Square, London Bridge and Bank Tube stations. The CD is due for release on September 19.

Chris said: 'I wanted to write an album about my experiences in London, trying to make it as a musician. I spent a lot of time on the Tube and I don't think anything symbolises the city more.'

He describes his music as a



'mix of the old and the new' with influences including David Bowie, the Beatles and the Kinks. He added: 'I take these influences and put them through a lot of technology, so the sound comes out a bit fresher.'

For more information about Chris and *Twisted City*, visit [www.chrissingleton.co.uk](http://www.chrissingleton.co.uk).

### Win a copy of Chris's brand new album

MetroTravel has five copies of the CD to give away. To be in with a chance of winning, answer the following question:

**In which three Tube stations did Chris launch his new Tube-inspired album?**

E-mail your entries to [metrocompetitions@tfl.gov.uk](mailto:metrocompetitions@tfl.gov.uk) by 5pm this evening. Don't forget to include your name, address and add 'CD competition' in the subject box.



DUBLINER Chris Singleton's new album is inspired by his frequent trips to London for his twin loves (his girlfriend lives there and he recorded this release at Abbey Road studios) and is itself a musical representation of a journey across the capital by tube. Scribbled on the back of train stubs and discarded newspapers, the subject matter appropriately fits the real life experience of a young man discovering the capital and its confusing transit system and who's trying to make a name for himself in the music industry. Each of the eleven tracks represents a tube station and Singleton is blessed with an outsider's view and the talent to record the going-ons in such a poetic and visual manner. 'Twisted City's concept is a fascinating idea carried out with skill and flair by surely one of the most promising songwriters to surface this year.

# Irish Examiner



IN THE PICTURE: Chris Singleton with his prized photograph of John Lennon the day he first met

## Chris is snap happy for Beatles

**D**UBLIN-BORN Chris Singleton is the latest Irish singer-songwriter tipped for the top. His debut album, *Twisted City*, a concept album based around stories on the London Underground, has gained plaudits in all the right places with its mixture of melody, intelligence and sonic innovation and idiosyncrasy.

Just as a lot of people think there's something special about Chris, his object of desire is also exceptional and has value beyond his own personal emotional investment. As he explains, the most precious item he possesses is an early photograph that marks the occasion of the very first meeting between John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

"The actual photo is of John Lennon the day he met Paul McCartney in St Peter's Woolton Parish Church in Liverpool," says Chris. "It was taken was July 6, 1957. It's a picture of Lennon up on stage with the Quarrymen, the band he was in before The Beatles. The photo is off the original negative and is signed by the photographer, Chris Rhind, so there's a value to it in monetary terms, but because my interest in music was kickstarted by hearing *Revolver* when I was 11, the photo has all kinds of other resonance for me, too."

"After this particular show by



OBJECT OF DESIRE

Patrick Brennan

Lennon, he was introduced to McCartney. Paul played him Eddie Cochran's *Twenty Flight Rock* and Lennon was sufficiently impressed by what he heard that he invited Paul to join The Quarrymen.

On October 18, 1957, Paul McCartney made his debut with The Quarrymen.

"When you throw into this mix the fact that the photograph was a present from my mother on my 25th birthday — she knew a friend of Chris Rhind and managed to persuade him to part with it — then you can see just how valuable the thing is to me personally. She gave it to me before I left for London to try to make it as a musician."

Chris has a very Catholic taste in music and cites the likes of Bowie and Marc Bolan, along with The Velvet Underground and Bob Dylan as influences besides The Beatles. He also spent a lot of time singing in choirs as he was growing up and still appreciates the training in harmony and musical arrangements his choir singing has given him.

He was also learning classical piano before he decided to pick up a guitar.

"My dad is a musician and he was in a lot of bands in the 60s, so there was always a lot of music on in the house," says Chris. "I played in some bands when I was in Trinity College as well, but I suppose the big move for me was going to London four years ago. There was something about the sound of *Revolver*, though, that was so different to anything else I'd heard up to then. I know now about all those tape loops, compressed drums and backward guitars, but when I was 11 it was like an alarm bell went off in my head."

It wasn't all plain sailing for Chris once he had settled in London. One of the biggest and somewhat unusual obstacles he had to overcome was an acute hearing affliction called hyperacusis. Chris found he couldn't bear loud noises of any description. To make matters worse,

much of the advice he received about how to treat the illness was of the wrong variety.

"Essentially, I developed an over-sensitivity to sound, possibly through listening to music too loud," says Chris. "For two years, everyday noises seemed horrendously harsh. The worst offenders were things like toilet flushes, showers, telephones and bus brakes. The way I dealt with it — and the worst way to deal with it in most cases — was by wearing earplugs. This just makes the problem worse, as when you take the earplugs out, everything seems even louder than when you put the plugs in."

"Eventually, I got really good treatment on the NHS in England. I got hearing therapy, which is a mix of hearing tests and hearing counselling. I was really sceptical about this at first, because I couldn't see how a 'hearing shrink' was going to help matters, but actually it was brilliant. I just needed reassurance that there was nothing permanently wrong with my hearing, good advice about not wearing earplugs, and some relaxation techniques. The problem was that I had convinced myself my ears were effectively 'broken', and the more I thought this, the worse things got. Once I got some reassurance that my ears were OK, they started being OK."

In spite of having hyperacusis during the making of the album, Chris nevertheless delivered the extremely impressive *Twisted City*.

"The album is loosely conceived as a tube journey through London," says Chris. "Every song is a stop on the line and is about a place, person or experience in the loosest sense of the word, but it does have a very 'travel' or 'London' theme to it. There are lots of tube noises on it, too. I went down into the Underground with a microphone and minidisc recorder, so there's snippets of conversations, closing doors, train departure announcements and so on at it. I looked like a nutter doing it."

"Launching the album on the London Underground helped attract a lot of attention in the UK and then this travelled across to Ireland. My ambitions for the future are really just caught up in touring *Twisted City*. I'm playing gigs in some other strange places, such as a bus. There will be further single releases later in the year and I'm looking forward to coming back to play *Crowdeddy* in April in Dublin. I'll also be recording some new tracks in Berlin later this year."

Twisted City on Brownpaper Records/Universal. The single *Get Up/Twisted City* is out now.

# Irish Independent

## Irish singer's Twisted version of life in London

DUBLIN singer-songwriter Chris Singleton was not busking when he performed on London's Underground yesterday – he was promoting his new album.

Commuters were given a taste of 'Twisted City', an album conceived as a tube ride through the British capital, with each song about a stop on the journey and a particular place or person.

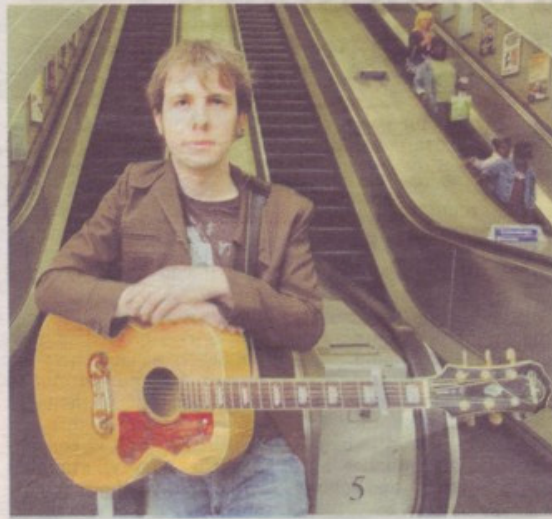
The singer, pictured right, who lives in Stoke Newington in London, was signed by major record label Universal, who are releasing his

debut album next month. The rising star is influenced by acts such as the Beatles, David Bowie, the Who and Pink Floyd as well as the Stone Roses, Radio Head and Primal Scream.

Singleton said he hit on the idea for the album after writing songs on the back of tube tickets, boarding cards and newspapers found abandoned in railway stations.

'Twisted City' will be released on September 19 and a single 'Worry Number One' on September 12.

EUGENE MOLONEY



## THE IRISH TIMES

both with strident, old-fashioned echoes of a time when lovelorn ballads were darker and more searing. While there are many acts who try to patrol similar terrain, few can demonstrate as confident a touch with their material and craft as O'Brien and Morrison. [www.thehollowsmusic.com](http://www.thehollowsmusic.com)

Jim Carroll

### CHRIS SINGLETON

*Twisted City* Brownpaper Records/Universal

★★★★



Singleton is a Dublin musician and songwriter who has beavered away at the coal face for some time. *Twisted City* is a concept album of sorts that takes various London Underground stations as stopping-off points for considered thoughts on the inconsistencies of love and relationships. It's an interesting set of ideas, complemented by some of the best pop/rock you're likely to hear this or any year – the kind of songs that you'd just wish someone like

Paul McCartney would write again. Then again, McCartney's lack of inspiration is Singleton's good luck charm; it has certainly rubbed off on tracks such as *Worry Number One*, *Pieces*, *The Only One* and *Wherever* – little nuggets all that are chips off the big beautiful block that is *Twisted City*. [www.chrissingleton.co.uk](http://www.chrissingleton.co.uk)

Tony Clayton-Lea

### JAZZ

### LASZLO GARDONY

*Natural Instinct* Sunnyside ★★★★★



Hungarian, but based in Boston for decades, Gardony is an exceptional pianist, not so much underrated as little-known, with a background in contemporary classical composers like Messaien, and a jazz one with adventurous players like Dave Liebman, Miroslav Vitous and Dave Holland. On this fine trio date with John Lockwood (bass) and Yoron Israel (drums), Gardony's playing flows with the

# HOTPRESS



## **CHRIS SINGLETON**

**TWISTED CITY** [BROWNPAPER RECORDS]

Not difficult to guess this Dubliner's record collection, which surely must include most of the glam rock canon, with a sizeable dollop of late '60s psychedelia and possibly an XTC album or two. With a voice somewhere between George Harrison and John Lennon – a good place to be – Singleton pens catchy tunes too, like the 'Spirit In The Sky'-meets-'Ballroom Blitz' opener, 'Worry Number One' and sublime Badfinger-esque ballads like 'Tonight' and 'The Only One'. Elsewhere he recalls more contemporary fare such as Joy Zipper on the radio-friendly title track. Compelling stuff



## Cheesy Singles

Up-and-coming singer-songwriter Chris Singleton bigs up songs sung by men with large sideburns in our Q+A

### Music New release?

This makes me sound like a 15-year-old female, and not entirely cool (and I always try to sound cool in these Q&As) but I've been enjoying Lilly Allen's *Alright Still* album, if that counts as a new release. She's a bit precocious but, hey, so am I. The album's got some very well-written pop on it.

### Classic?

Can't answer this question with just one album! My all-time favourites are *Dark Side of the Moon* by Pink Floyd, *Abbey Road* by the Beatles, *The Bends* by Radiohead and *Walls and Bridges* by John Lennon. I could go on, there are so many records I love.

### Compilation?

20 *Classic Number Ones* from the '70s. Bought it in a bargain bin for £3.99, but it's great. It's got everything from Mungo Jerry to the Boomtown Rats on it. You never know what to expect next, except that whoever's singing it will have big sideburns.

### Karaoke?

The nearest thing I've done to karaoke recently is some very loud shower singing. My favourite songs to sing in the shower are *Peaches* by The Stranglers and Beethoven's 5th Symphony. An odd combination, and probably quite hard to find on a karaoke machine. But they sound great in the bathroom.

### Everything Else

#### Book?

My favourite book of recent times is

*Northern Lights* by Philip Pullman – an absolutely beautifully told story, complete with very well-written polar bears.

### Cinema release?

*Magnolia* – the film is based around Aimee Mann's songs, which I love. And I think any film which manages to make a sequence of frogs falling from the sky a central part of the plot deserves to be lavished with praise.

### Rental/Old Classic?

*Some Like it Hot* is a corker of an old classic. Marilyn Monroe shows some real comic genius in that.

### Magazine?

In Dublin, obviously. Or failing that, a musician's mag, *Sound on Sound*, which has lots of pictures of guys with beards and mixing desks.

### Five Things You Recommend That Are Cool:

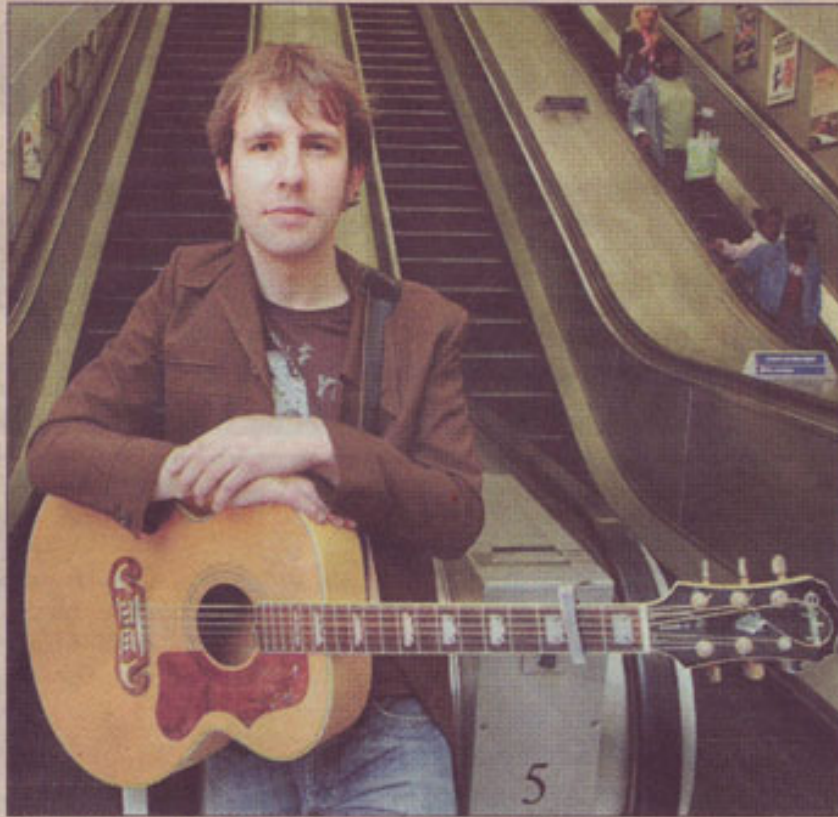
- 1 Music
- 2 Comfortable sofas
- 3 Guitars
- 4 Japanese noodle-based soups
- 5 Q&As

### And Two Things That Aren't:

- 1 Darius
- 2 Overwhelmingly strong fish

Chris Singleton's latest single *Get Up* was released on January 29th

(Dublin)



Slight return: Dubliner Chris is Universal's latest signing Picture: PA

# Singleton in love with London Tube

IRISH musician Chris Singleton is hoping his album, *Twisted City*, will be more than an underground hit. Signed by Universal, Dubliner Chris wrote his album about the Tube on the back of Tube tickets and newspapers during his frequent visits to London. Chris, who counts David Bowie and The Beatles among his influences, launched the CD yesterday by busking at stations on the Underground. 'I wanted to write an album about my experiences in London, trying to make it as a musician,' he said. 'I spent a lot of time on the Tube and I don't think anything symbolises the city more.'

# The Argus Lite



**DOWN THE TUBE:** Irish singer-songwriter Chris Singleton performs at Leicester Square underground station yesterday as he launched his album *Twisted City in Tube stations* across London. He has written an entire record about the Tube and his album starts with a driver saying: "This train is ready to depart, stand clear of the closing doors."