

Martyn Barker

Musician, Composer and Producer.

My roots began in Merseyside in the north west of England near Liverpool. From the late Seventies playing clubs around Liverpool and North Wales until I made the great escape to London where, at a gig at the 100 club, I met Barry Andrews (XTC) Barry then invited me to guest on Shriekback`s Care Album. I did and it went on and on until I joined the band and recorded “Oil and Gold” and at least 7 Albums and World Tours followed till the present day! I still record with Barry for more Shriek stuff or other impro Projects.

In-between Shriekback, through the late 80s and into the 90s, I have recorded with World Party, King Swamp, Fluke, Ethan Johns, and Sarah Jane Morris, Joseph Arthur, Alain Bashung, Dominique Ane, Juliette Greco, Khaled and, more recently, a project at Salif Keita`s studio in Mali Africa, Ray Davies, Nizlopi, Pauline Croze, Fred and Ronan Keating

From the late 90s I have been recording and touring with Billy Bragg, as a member of the Blokes, from the Mermaid Avenue tours through to England Half English. In March this year we recorded Billy`s new album to be released next year.

Last year I recorded on Hal Willner`s Rouge`s Gallery with Nick Cave, Bryan Ferry and the Carthy family.

Apart from some film music I have composed and more recently “What Are You Doing Forever” with Paula Rae Gibson, there have been more improvisation Projects with Ausgang and the Fire Judges.

Paula is releasing her new album next year on the Bable label and she is using 6 tracks that we composed together along with my production. I was introduced to Paula by Will Gregory of Goldfrapp. Will and I have worked and composed together for the movie “ID” for Parallax pictures.

I have an Album out this year with Andy Partridge and Barry Andrews. This is called Monstrance.

This project was purely improvised over a period of 4 days and performed/composed by all three of us.

Monstrance is out on the APE Label.

At the Moment I am co writing a new Album with Sarah Jane Morris.

This is the 3rd Album Sarah and I have co written together.

I co produced Sarah`s last Album Love and Pain with Calum Maccoll.

My most recent recording has been on the new Ray Davies and Nizlopi Albums.

Next year will be another trip to Africa to work with an artist from Cape Verde with French producer Jean Lamoot.