



## Jack O' Rourke

Summers End (Tribute to John Prine) Tommy Tiernan this year

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-YF87HNNP6E>

Silence - on Late Late Show

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jF2XcYBmYCs>

Sea Swimming - Choice song of the year 2021

[https://youtu.be/9CH3ikNt\\_-8](https://youtu.be/9CH3ikNt_-8)

Patsy Cline - Live at BBC

<https://youtu.be/PQB0vXLNIQw>

River - Live with Loah at Other Voices

<https://youtu.be/cOoyS-DtcX0>

Táimse im Chodladh - Live at Trad Fest

[https://youtu.be/y\\_-CS8qLP2U](https://youtu.be/y_-CS8qLP2U)

*"A captivating live performer, Jack O'Rourke shows a deftness when it comes to dissecting the minutiae of relationships and examining the human condition in a manner worthy of lyrical forebears Leonard Cohen and Tom Waits."* **The Irish Examiner**

**Jack O'Rourke** takes many forms – singer, songwriter, composer, performer – one of those mercurial artists whose musical imagination and personality has made him an intriguing entity to his many fans. He manages to combine that most difficult and delicate of writing traits – the ability to convey the personal whilst making it universal. Like all great folk and roots artists, Jack has respect for tradition while pushing the parameters of innovation.

At home in folk, chamber music, blues, pop, jazz and rock, Jack's rich baritone is warm, emotional and inviting. Seated at the piano, he picks out folk songs of modernity with nods to melodic traditions of old - be it the beautiful ode to growing up gay in the Amnesty Yes campaign anthem, Silence, to the poignant story of a publican who secretly paints in Opera On The Top Floor to the joy and release of diving into the ocean in Sea Swimming.

After the success of his 3rd album, the Lockdown inspired, folk and piano tinged, *Wild Place* (featuring Patsy Cline nominated for RTE Folk Original Song of the Year and *Sea Swimming*, Choice Prize Song of the Year Nominee) Jack composed music to Brendan Behan poetry during his Artistic residency at Centre Culturel Irlandaise, inspired by traditional music and Sean nós. Melodically, there are nods to Ravel and Debussy and also contemporary influences like Kate Bush, The National, Radiohead and Irish contemporaries Lankum.

Collaborator Bob Gallagher commented on Jack's relationship with Behan's poetry and working with Jack. "What Jack has done in translating the poem into music is an achievement of transcendence. The sparse piano and yearning voice capture the loneliness but refuse to accept it, wrestling with it up and down the In a very literal sense, the experience elevated us from isolation to solidarity, ón uaigneas go dlúth chaidreamh, threading Behan's text through the grave and back into life."

Having played St. James' Church for Other Voices, Jack sang Neil Young's *Harvest Moon* Live on national television for Culture Night. He recently took part in the tribute to his lyrical hero John Prine at Vicar Street, with Declan O'Rourke, Mick Flannery, Susan O'Neill and Lisa Hannigan, duetting with Gemma Hayes on two Prine classics. This was preceded with joining Wallis Bird and Jess Kav interpreting Thin Lizzy and Phil Lynott with The RTE Concert Orchestra and finally, returning to his native Cork to reimagine the songs of the Beatles at Cork Opera House. He rounded up June in joining Jenny Greene, belting out club and rnb anthems to electro beats, Live at the Marquee.

Versatile and musically adventurous, Jack's roots still lie at the piano, the telling of a story in song and his empathy to sing of characters facing life's triumphs and tragedies.

Jack looks forward to playing *Sitges Live 2023* as a headliner.

### Quotes

*"Wild Place is a wonderful record from an artist who has become one of Ireland's most consistently fascinating singer-songwriters"* - **Irish Examiner**

*"Sparse, well-spaced arrangements, with lyrics of pathos and wit"* - **RTE Arena**

*"Easily one of the year's best albums."* - **Tony Clayton Lea, Irish Times**

*"Wild Place, a suite of economical chamber-pop songs, will linger long after the year is gone."*  
- **Sunday Business Post**

*"O'Rourke is a vocalist of rare distinction. The album's essence is to be found on *Sea Swimming* - a track that's redolent of the sort of standards that Paul Brady delivered early in his career."*  
- **John Meagher, The Irish Independent**

*"Wild Place, a suite of economical chamber-pop songs, will linger long after the year is gone."*  
**Sunday Business Post (Best of the year)**

*"With 'Wild Place' O'Rourke has more than met expectations for his sophomore work which showcases his maturity as a creator of deeply moving, lyrically ornate compositions"* - **JohnLoftus, Golden Plec**

- *Sea Swimming* - Nomination - **Choice Prize Song of the Year**

*"There's a soaring, magical quality to Jack O'Rourke's *Wild Place*. There's an almost cinematic feel to the album, like a soundtrack to some classic Hollywood movie, perhaps by Nora Ephron. *Wild Place* seals O'Rourke's reputation as one of Ireland's most gifted performers."* - **Hotpress**

