

## Luka Bloom - Bio

Luka Bloom was born Barry Moore on May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1955 in Newbridge, County Kildare, Ireland. The youngest of six children, and the brother of folk musician Christy Moore, Barry was raised in an environment where [traditional] music was being constantly performed. Barry's particular inspiration was the music of contemporary North American writers such as Joni Mitchell. During the early seventies, along with school friend Pat Kilbride, he played in the band Aes Triplex, which supported Planxty [Christy's band] on their debut tour. After touring the UK and Germany in 1977-78 as a member of Inchiquin, who made one self-titled album, Barry launched his solo career. He went on to perform in folk clubs all across Europe. By this stage, Christy and other artists were covering Barry's songs. Between the late seventies and early eighties he recorded a trio of albums including, **"In Gronigen,"** which was recorded and released by a small Dutch label, during the short period he lived in Holland. He developed his unique guitar sound after chronic tendinitis of his elbow was diagnosed in the early eighties. Rather than face surgery, he *retired* and rested his arm for a couple of years. These days, instead of picking the instrument, he employs a style of strumming the guitar. In the mid-eighties he played in Red Square, a rock band, but soon returned to being a solo act. He changed his name to Luka Bloom in 1987, taking Luka from the recent Suzanne Vega hit of the same name, while his new surname was taken from Leopold Bloom, the hero in the James Joyce novel **"Ulysses."** In 1988 Bloom recorded a self-titled album in Dublin for Mystery Records, but the recording soon ran into contractual difficulties and was withdrawn from sale. Bloom, frustrated at the lack of opportunities for singer/songwriters in his native land, moved to the States in the late eighties and settled initially in Washington D.C. Residencies at Dylan's in Georgetown and the Red Lion in Greenwich Village, plus Stateside tours with The Pogues and Hothouse Flowers, soon brought him to the notice of major record companies and Luka eventually signed a recording deal with Reprise Records. In the process he moved his base to New York. His debut album for Reprise, **"Riverside,"** brought him acclaim and vastly increased his fan base. By the time that **"The Acoustic Motorbike"** appeared two years later Bloom had returned to Dublin. **"Turf"** proved to be his final album for Reprise and **"Salty Heaven"** was made for Sony/Columbia. Tired of dealing with major labels, **"Keeper Of The Flame,"** his album of cover songs was leased to numerous labels worldwide. It featured songs by Dylan, Tim Hardin, Joni Mitchell, U2 and The Cure's, Robert Smith. His first recording of the new millennium to feature new Luka Bloom penned songs, **"Between The Mountain And The Moon"** was released by his own Irish based label, LukaBloom.com in early 2002, and subsequently leased to various labels in other territories. Concurrent with the latter release, a fifteen-track disc **"The Barry Moore Years"** was released on the net by LukaBloom.com, which reprised his trio of early career, solo albums. Bloom's latest release, in the Spring of 2003, was the live album **"Amsterdam"** which was recorded in the Netherlands. Bloom had to deal with a recurrent bout of tendonitis in his right hand during 2003 that curtailed his guitar playing for a time. While recovering, and playing a Spanish guitar, Luka developed the idea and subsequently the music for the mini album, **"Before Sleep Comes."** The nine-track album was recorded in two nights at the same studio he used for much of **"Salty Heaven."** Using the name Luka Bloom, his eighth full-studio album **"Innocence"** appeared on his own label, Big Sky Records, during early 2005. Two years later **"Tribe"** appeared on the same imprint, and where Bloom had consistently composed songs on his own in the past, the album found him working with a collaborator. Produced by Simon O'Reilly, the collection featured nine songs by Bloom/O'Reilly, plus three instrumentals – two credited to Bloom/O'Reilly and one to O'Reilly.

The mp3 download albums **"Live Port Fairy Folk Festival – Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2007"** [11 songs] and **"Live Port Fairy Folk Festival – Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2007"** [16 songs] were recorded at this annual Australian music festival. Released during early 2008, **"The Man Is Alive"** was a 2DVD/1CD set that features two filmed concerts – "An Afternoon In Kildare" and "An Evening In Dublin" – as well as the documentary "My Name Is Luka," plus a sixteen song live CD. **"Eleven Songs"** was co-produced, recorded and mixed by The Frames original guitarist David Odlum. Odlum mixed **"Tribe,"** Bloom's 2007 release, at his Black Box studio in France. The sessions for **"Eleven Songs"** took place over eight days at Grouse Lodge in County Westmeath, and the session players included ex-The Frames Dave Hingerty [drums], Trevor Hutchinson [double bass], Liam O'Maonlai [piano], Paul Smith [piano], Conor Byrne [flute], Kenneth Edge [soprano sax, clarinet] and Donal's daughter Cora Venus Lunny [violin/viola], plus the Gardiner St. Gospel Choir and backing vocalists Sinead Martin and Luka's son, Robbie Moore. O'Maonlai [ex-Hothouse Flowers] also played harp on one song and sang. The album was mixed at Black Box.

Discography ; Solo only.

As Barry Moore : **"Treaty Stone"** [1978] ; **"In Gronigen"** [1980] ; **"No Heroes"** [1982].

As Luka Bloom : **"Luka Bloom"** [1988] ; **"Riverside"** [1990] ; **"The Acoustic Motorbike"** [1992] ; **"Turf"** [1994] ; **"Salty Heaven"** [1998] ; **"Keeper Of The Flame"** [2000] ; **"Between the Mountain And The Moon"** [2002] ; **"The Barry Moore Years"** [2002] ; **"Amsterdam"** [2003] ; **"Before Sleep Comes"** mini

album [2004] ; **“Innocence”** [2005] ; **“Tribe”** [2007] ; **“Live Port Fairy Folk Festival – Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2007”** mp3 download [2007] ; **“Live Port Fairy Folk Festival – Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2007”** mp3 download [2007] ; **“Eleven Songs”** [2008] :

DVD – **“The Man Is Alive”** [2DVD set + 1 CD] :

### **Arthur Wood**

Kerrville Kronikles 04/02, 04/03, 02/04, 02/05, 07/07 & 10/08  
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