

## Jon Brooks: 250 Word Bio 2010

Though award-winning Canadian songwriter Jon Brooks' music is filled with grey and *morally* ambiguous characters living on the outskirts of approval, his mandate is unequivocal: "I'm not interested in 'happy songs' – they have a place and purpose and I respect that and there's many songwriters out there doing that without my help. I've chosen to write *healing songs* and, for that reason, I'm obliged to reveal a wound or two now and then. I'm even less interested in writing *unhappy* songs: I want to write *hopeful* songs, *inspiring* songs and I expect I owe today's listener some *hopeful* argument – some legitimate reason - as to why we *should* believe our present world *could* be improved, or healed. The highest aim of song is to invoke empathy - to offer that rare sight of ourselves *in others*. In this sense, the folk singer is simply trying to politicize love, hence, my contention that today's songwriter should be a lobbyist for compassion to be our principle representative in government office."

His third CD, *Moth Nor Rust* (2009), looked inward to all that neither *moth nor rust* can touch: love, hope, trust, memory, inspiration, justice, and faith. More than a celebration of the inner life, *Moth Nor Rust* reminds us how *the song* is a necessary and moral means toward lifting humanity in the 21st century.

*Moth Nor Rust* earned Jon his second Canadian Folk Music Award nomination for *Best Songwriter*.

Jon also made The Toronto Star's annual list of *Top 10 Artists To Watch In 2010*.