

Jon Brooks: 350 Word 1 Page Bio 2010

Upon his return from a 1997 visit to war ruined Bosnia-Herzegovina, Jon Brooks traded guitar for pen, claiming his faith in popular music as a source of healing had been challenged. In 2005 - after 8 years of neither writing music nor performing - Brooks conceded the opposing view to be equally true: that "only the art of song carries within itself the means toward greater social justice and community survival."

According to award winning Canadian songwriter, Jon Brooks, "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."

In 2006 he released *No Mean City*, a weighty and conceptual exposition of the modern urban soul's homelessness and moral fatigue. 2007 afforded Brooks only superlative acclaim with the release of *Ours And The Shepherds*, a CD of Canadian war stories inspired by James Loney, Senator Romeo Dallaire, Sgt. Tommy Prince, and John McRae among others. The collection earned Brooks a *Best Songwriter* nomination at the *2007 Canadian Folk Music Awards*. *Penguin Eggs* deemed it "a thoroughly wonderful and truly important addition to the canon of Canadian folk music." *Ours And The Shepherds* is now among the collections of *The Canadian War Museum* and *The John McRae Society*.

His 2009 CD, *Moth Nor Rust*, 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* and its lyrics were published by Canada's esteemed literary quarterly, *Exile Editions*.

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