

# MIKE MCKENNA JR.

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST BOUND

*"An authentic, golden, raspy voice that sings comfortably over folk-driven rhythmic guitar lines... ..His personal, nostalgic lyrics are wonderfully descriptive giving his music a relatable and also gorgeously humble tone."*

### - Spotify Community

*"Cape Bretoner Mike McKenna Jr is cut from the same musical cloth as Neil Young, James, Taylor, and other artists whose imaginative blend of fact and fiction produce timeless tales of love, longing, and a search for heart and soul."*

### - Quick Before It Melts

With grit, power and soul in his voice, a folky rhythm to his guitar playing, and a unique authenticity in his stories, Nova Scotia-born singer-songwriter Mike McKenna Jr has captivated listeners in his native Maritimes and around the North American folk community.

He draws inspiration for his music from his early life growing up in Cape Breton, a region known as much for its rugged and picturesque landscape as for its rich cultural legacy that includes 500-years of colonial history and the accumulated oral traditions of Celtic, Mi'kmaq, and Acadian storytelling. The nostalgia of Atlantic Canada can be heard in the oil-workers ballad, "Die in the West" -- a song from his recent EP *Travelin Man* (2016), written in the traditional ballad style that idealizes the landscapes of home, but also the reality of struggling coal and steel industries on the East Coast.

Influenced by the two working class cultures of Cape Breton and Massachusetts, the strong historical relationship between Nova Scotia and New England is evident in his music. His raspy, warm voice is reminiscent of a folky, Sweet Baby James era James Taylor, or the power of Ray Lamontagne, but his tales of tragic sea voyages and lost lovers are a throwback to the nautical-themed traditional songs of Nova Scotia, and a revival of old school storytelling made popular by Canadians like Stan Rogers and Gordon Lightfoot.

Funded by FACTOR Canada and the Canada Council of the Arts, Mike's newest album *Pacific Northwest Bound* (2017) is set for release on May 26th, and will be available on all platforms

### PACIFIC NORTHWEST BOUND



- 1) America (3:31)
- 2) Pacific Northwest Bound (2:54)
- 3) The Wake (4:03)
- 4) Hard to Say (But It Was Awful Timing) (2:50)
- 5) Bright Sunny South (3:00)
- 6) The Chesapeake & the Shannon, Pt. I (2:07)
- 7) The Shepherd (2:44)
- 8) Lost (3:30)
- 9) Ye Witches (3:43)
- 10) Hope the Angels Will Sing over My Lonely Bones (3:30)
- 11) Spring, 1823 (3:49)
- 12) The Chesapeake & the Shannon, Pt. II (2:13)

**FACTOR**  
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