

TIGER COOKE

Fingertips of the Silversmith

The brand new album releasing October 22nd, 2010

Tiger Cooke returns with his third album, **Fingertips of the Silversmith**, on Friday **October 22nd**. The album merges the jazz rock sensibilities of new band members **Kevin Brady** and **David Redmond**, with Cooke's own soul folk leanings, to create a new dark folk vibe. Inspired by the sparse sounds of The Police, Ben Allison and the arrangements of Ethan Johns, **Fingertips of the Silversmith** was produced by **David Geraghty** (Bell X1) and recorded in Dublin earlier this year. The album will be preceded by the single **Out of Reach** on **Friday October 8th**.

Cooke always wanted to be a musician but with his sensible hat on, reckoned it might be wise to lay the foundations for a 'real job' first, so he began studying Computational Linguistics at DCU. The course was tough but in his third year he travelled to Paris to study and it was on the banks of the River Seine that he chucked in the computational whatchamacallits and starting focusing on the music. He spent his days writing and his nights meeting like-minded people at romantic run down speakeasies, where he took part in jamming sessions and a whole new world of thought opened up to him. He managed to balance college and being a musician and in his final year of getting his degree in **2002**, he recorded his **Sparks EP** with good friend Dave Geraghty playing drums and bass. Ever industrious, Cooke burned off copies of the EP, hand-made some nice sleeves and sold them at gigs and support slots. In 2003, Cooke was invited by Bell X1 to support them on an Irish tour, an amazing and scary experience for one so early in his career but it gave him a real taste of life as a musician.

After a couple of years writing and gigging, Cooke was ready to record his debut album and in **2005**, **Wax and Seal** was released to much critical acclaim, with the Irish Times describing it as "*Eminently likeable, utterly enviable.*" Following a chance encounter with Mary Black's Japanese record label (it's a long story...), **Wax and Seal** was even released in Japan! Cooke's prime passion is performing live and he spent month after month performing in living rooms and at house concerts, as well as music venues, arts centres and one or two fields. In an attempt to capture the unique qualities of a live performance, he organized a recorded evening in a friend's beautifully renovated church apartment, with a number of musical friends including Dave Geraghty, Claire Finglass and Lorcan Cosgrave. The album **Live At St. Kevins** was born and Cooke sold it through his website and at shows. Taking a break from his own recordings, Cooke began working with Dave Geraghty on his solo projects and is featured on both the Choice Music Prize nominated album *Kill Your Darlings* and Geraghty's latest release *The Victory Dance*.

Since 2008, Cooke has covered some mileage across the US! In order to build up transatlantic contacts, Tiger and Colm Quearney took to the road, sharing the bill, hitting New York and Michigan venues, selling albums and just meeting as many people as possible. In 2009, a US support slot came up for grabs with Guggenheim Grotto, taking in vast amounts of land from East Coast to the Deep South, travelling in a small car with all the bands equipment and over 3,500 miles were clocked up in just one week alone! Earlier this year, Cooke returned to the US again as the opening act for Guggenheim Grotto, with a better planned route and a bigger car, the East and West Coast were travelled and many gigs were played. Cooke cites these times as some of the best and worst so far 'An incredible experience. *We met so many real music fans, and played so many crazy shows. It was really an eye-opener*' with hopes to return to US shores later this year.

It was while recording Dave Geraghty's first album that Cooke met with drummer **Kevin Brady** and double-bassist **David Redmond**, with whom he recorded his new album **Fingertips of the Silversmith**. Dublin based drummer **Kevin Brady** has been playing professionally for the last 15 years, having studied classical piano and trumpet from an early age. He developed an interest in the drums at nineteen and went on to attend the Guildhall School of Music, followed by a scholarship to Berklee College of Music in Boston. Brady has performed with a multitude of legends including Van Morrison. Jazz double-bassist **David Redmond** studied under Steve Coleman and is considered one of Ireland's leading players. He has performed with many visiting artists including Bob Dorough and Keith Copeland.

Cooke recorded **Fingertips of the Silversmith** with Redmond and Brady in Dublin during 2008 and 2010, with David Geraghty at the producer's helm. Others who took part included **Q aka Colm Quearney**, (Lir, Mundy, Jerry Fish), **Cora Venus**

Lunny (Fovea Hex, Yurodny), **Sean Carpio** (Triple Piglet, Red Rocket) and **Justin Carroll** (Organics). Songs were pulled apart and reconstructed. He says of the experience 'As a solo performer, you often try to fill all the gaps and create a fuller sound... which is fine, but when you're playing with a band, you really have to hold back and leave space'.

The title **Fingertips of the Silversmith** was inspired by Cooke seeing a photograph of the stained fingers of a friend who was training as a silversmith. Stains caused by the use of acid during the process only appear on the artists hands a few days later. It struck Cooke that this is much like how events in life can affect you long after they have happened, how something can occur in your life that you brush off at the time but much later the 'stains' of the event can appear.

Fingertips of the Silversmith releases in Ireland on Friday October 22nd.

The lead single **Out of Reach** releases on October 8th.

A nationwide tour will be announced shortly.

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Fingertips of the Silversmith- Track by track

Rid of Her

It's not as evil as the chorus makes it sound. It's full of contradictions, and basically show a mind filled with a confusion of guilt, hate, love and need.

Andrea's Fault

I'd be lying if I said this was entirely about earthquakes.

Out of Reach

I remember sitting on my porch on a sunny day writing this watching the dust shimmer in the sunlight, lamenting the fact that sometimes muses are just muses.

Grinding Teeth

It's essentially about the tensions and little mini-wars that are fought in relationships... everything seems fine on the surface, but there's always little struggles going on. Perfectly healthy of course...

This Isn't Easy

That was a tough one to write. I suppose it's partially about the complexities of break-ups in the modern era when a social network profile is just a click away, when a person is just a drunken text or phonecall away... it doesn't make things easy.

Not In My Nature

I was trying to channel some aggression here, and use positive reinforcement. I am NOT a pushover. I AM a strong and confident man. Not sure if it's worked, but I feel better anyway.

There's An Elvis In Us All

I started writing this around the time of Elliott Smith's death. I was recording the first album at the time. It was a real shock to me, because I'd written quite a few songs on that album around the time when I discovered Smith's music in Paris. Anyway, the song's wondering about the self-destruct button within. Do we all have it? I added the second verse during the recording, about all the recent deaths we've had of really frighteningly young actors and musicians on totally legal prescription meds. I suppose the whole thing is part warning, part wondering, and part disgust at the inevitable glamour of such young deaths...

Your Green Lights

This is about waltzing with strangers through the aisles of record shops, and the bliss of new love affairs.

I Knew Better

About leaving home and realising that regardless of the promises everyone makes to each other, that things will never be quite the same.

Your True North

This is partly inspired by Robert Louis Stevenson, and partly just a plain old lovesong. There's a part in one of his books, which I read a lot when I was a child, where the characters were trying desperately to make it to the Highlands of Scotland, where they'd be safe from the English Redcoats. So this is all about making it to the Firth of Forth, where I'll be safe