

# Set My Dreams Free Review

## Folk Northwest – August 2011

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### CHRIS ROGAN

#### Set My Dreams Free

To go through every track would take up too large a part of this page, however to select just a few seems not to do justice to the entire album.

However, a few songs do leap out at me. Not because they are better than the rest but because I was lucky enough to hear them performed on a regular basis at singers nights and sinagrounds for two years before their long awaited recording.

The title track 'Set My Dreams Free', feels autobiographical for Chris, who once retired from work, was able to set his dreams free and become a regular of songs (mostly, but not exclusively, his own).

I Saw The News is a potent reminder that in the human world not much changes. If you compared the news reports of today with the news reports from any other time you'd find them to be depressingly similar.

Banks Of The Clyde tells us of his relatives working in the Scottish shipyards as riveters on some of the worlds largest steel ships, including The Lusitania. Banks Of The Clyde features a typically Chris Rogan chorus, while not easy it makes you want to sing along forever.

The Story Of John and Mary is a story, although about his ancestors, that so many families can relate to. Likes o many people, two of his ancestors

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ed their passage to the New World search of a better life. This song has another of Chris's catchy chorus' that you'll find yourself singing long after the album has finished.

The final original song I was already familiar with before the album came out was The Dancers Song. This is the story of his father who was a bit of a Fred Astaire on the dance floor, but who became too infirm to dance but whose heart never lost that longing to put his best foot forward and take to the floor again. Chris captures so well that frustration when you can no longer do something you used to do so well.

Mention must be made of Chris' excellent rendition of the traditional song re-written by Francis Mcpeake in 1957 'The Wild Mountain Thyme'. These are just some of the great songs featured on this album.

'Set My Dreams Free' is a collection of 13 songs which each individually, and even more so collectively, go to prove what a master songwriter and performer Chris Rogan is and why he should booked at your local club now.

**JAMES BLATCHLEY**

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**BERNARD WRIGLEY**