

# The Irish Herald



## New CD Reviews

by Dave Soyars

**EOIN HARRINGTON – Story**

(Available from [eoinharrington.com](http://eoinharrington.com))

**D**UBLIN BORN, SAN FRANCISCO resident Eoin Harrington is a charismatic young fellow who, were he starting in any previous decade, would be a sure next-big-thing with big label star-making machinery behind him. It's not entirely a bad thing that one has to do a lot of the initial work themselves these days, with folks like Harrington playing to their strengths rather than being caught up in whatever niche someone else wants to force them into. Perhaps Harrington's not a fully-formed unique artist yet, in thrall to those who've gone before, but his unassuming nature will certainly bear fruit as he develops. It'd be hard to call him anything else but a soul singer, rich in the intensity of

the best of American R&B before him and with the power to be shouty and the melodicism to be smooth, but most importantly, with the wisdom to know what's called for when. Strong guitars and rhythm section, without the over reliance on keyboards and drum machines common in much modern music also help make his case. "Close Proximity" is the kind of organic rock and soul performance that once upon a time would have been a radio hit. "Never Be Lonely" is infused with the kind of moody atmospheric thing that Radiohead used to do well before they got all whispery and weird, and the album opener "Move Along" is an acoustic-based hook-laden thing that announces right away a voice to be reckoned with.

## IRISH EDITION

*Album Reviews*  
By Jamie O'Brien

### Eoin Harrington Story

Getting away from traditional music for a while, Eoin Harrington is a transplanted Irishman now based in California. Playing guitars, keyboards, bass and percussion as well as singing, he's recorded this near-hour-long gem of an album. This is pop music at its best. Once again, the material is so important. He's written the 14 songs and though he creates a variety of sounds, there is wonderful continuity. Each song is a lovely story (this is thoughtful composing: the melodies really stand out and the lyrics deserve attention.)

His tenor voice performs wonderful gymnastics, leaping from low to high notes with consummate ease. There is so much character in his sound. And the overall sound, which features guitars, a variety of keyboards, sax, trumpet and percussive instruments, also



Eoin Harrington  
photo/Michael Friel

twists and turns through a bunch of moods: summer and festive, rocking and driving, dancing music and listening songs.

If this album is anything to go by, I'd really love to see Harrington play live.

[www.eoinharrington.com](http://www.eoinharrington.com)

*Once again, that's it for this month. Problems finding any of these albums? Just get in touch and I'll see what I can do. Contact me c/o Irish Edition or by email at [jobrien@launies.com](mailto:jobrien@launies.com).*