

Alastair Moock

singer-songwriter / roots revivalist / family performer / music educator

Fifteen years into his career on the international folk circuit, Alastair Moock has managed to carve out a unique niche for himself: He is an artist committed to celebrating the roots of American music while knocking down the walls between different audiences, genres and musical traditions. Today, his audiences range from adults all the way down to preschoolers, and he plays everything from nightclubs to theaters to schoolrooms. Like his boyhood hero, Woody Guthrie, Moock believes in the power of music to reach all people — young and old, far and wide, for all occasions.

Moock started performing in 1995, moving from his home outside New York City to the folk haven of Boston, Massachusetts. After honing his skills on Boston's open mike stages and working his way up through the local coffeehouse and club circuit, he began touring around the U.S. By 2002, he had traveled extensively throughout the East and Midwest, performing at some of the top listening rooms and outdoor events in the country, including the **Newport** and **Boston Folk Festivals**, **The Old Town School of Folk Music** in Chicago, **The Birchmere** in Washington D.C., and **The Bluebird Café** in Nashville. In 2003 he made his first trip to Europe, where he performed at the prestigious **Bergen Music Fest** in Norway. Since then he has made numerous trips across the pond with appearances in Scandinavia, France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and the UK.

His original material has won top honors at many of the folk world's most prestigious song contests, including those at the **Falcon Ridge**, **Sisters**, and **Great Waters** folk festivals. In 2007, on the heels of *Fortune Street*, his fifth album and second on CoraZong Records, Moock was nominated for a **Boston Music Award** for Outstanding Singer/Songwriter of the Year. *The Boston Globe* calls him "one of the town's best and most adventurous songwriters" and *The Washington Post* says "every song is a gem."

In 2000, Alastair founded a new roots music series called *Pastures of Plenty* which he brought to clubs and festivals throughout New England. The aim of the series was to bridge the gaps between the folk and roots rock crowds, between the contemporary and traditional scenes, and between younger and older players. But what it really came down to was bringing together some of the region's best songwriters and musicians to swap tunes on a stage. Ten years on, the series still regularly fills seats at Boston clubs with shows that *The Boston Globe* call "the hippest hootenannies in town."

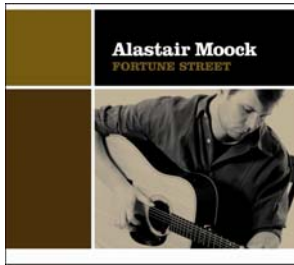
Throughout his career, Moock had worked with and occasionally performed for kids on the side, but it wasn't until his twin daughters were born in 2006 that he was inspired to make his first foray into family music. In 2010, he released his first family album, *A Cow Says Moock*, winning an enthusiastic response from critics and kids alike. It won a NAPPA Gold Award, a Parent's Choice Recommended Award, and was a Boston Children's Music Favorite Album of the Year. After signing with Stephanie Rothschild of KidzLoveMusic, Moock began performing regularly with his Rowdy Roots Band at theaters throughout the Northeast. A new family album is now in the works for 2011 and will feature some of Moock's longtime music collaborators including Lori McKenna, Mark Erelli, Rani Arbo, and many more.

For several years now, Alastair has also offered school assembly programs on the life and times of Woody Guthrie, bringing the show and accompanying songwriting workshops to primary and secondary schools throughout New England and as far away as The American School in Warsaw, Poland. He recently created a new, broader program, "Music and Social Change," which teaches kids about the political impact of music from the labor rights movement, through the civil rights and antiwar movements, to the present day. Starting in Fall 2011, that program will be offered exclusively in Massachusetts through the national arts organization Young Audiences, and in the rest of the country and in Europe through Moock's booking agent.



Booking: kidzlovemusic@gmail.com • Label: www.corazong.com
High-Resolution Photos are Available to Download at www.moock.com

Praise For Fortune Street...



“On a new album, Mook sings about urban isolation, a land of plenty rotting on the vine, and love's many moods with insight, defiant idealism, and a survivor's hard humor. If Woody Guthrie grew up in 21st-century Boston, he'd sound a lot like Mook.”

The Boston Globe

“If you yearn for the Americana of The Band and The Grateful Dead or believe that *Time Out Of Mind* is Dylan's finest album, then run, do not walk to *Fortune Street*, the fifth album by Boston's Alastair Mook... Five Stars”

Rock 'n Reel

“The country blues/Americana/folk road is one well traveled and littered with casualties. Mook may be just another troubadour plying his trade, but what makes *Fortune Street* stand out from the pack is its authenticity. It could have been recorded at any time in the last 50 years but it sounds fresh and vibrant and right now, and that's talent.”

Hi-Fi

“What a wonderful album...”

Bob Harris, BBC Radio

Other Quotes...

“Mook has become simply one of the top songwriters in the region.”

The Boston Herald

“Alastair Mook displays the gifts the best folk songwriters have: romantic without seeming mawkish, clever without seeming precious, brooding without seeming self-pitying... [This is] one of Boston's best and most adventurous songwriters.”

The Boston Globe

“Mook's songs are simple, built on country-blues structures and free of the convoluted metaphors and self-conscious wordplay that clutter so much modern folk music... Every one is a gem.”

The Washington Post

“... Mook is an anachronism in the best sense. He's a young man with the wizened sound of someone much older...”

Dirty Linen

“Alastair Mook is the second coming of John Prine.”

Ellis Paul, Songwriter

“Alastair Mook has been compared to John Prine, Steve Forbert, Tom Waits and other rough voices in American roots music. The comparisons miss the fact that his folksy songs about wandering friends, lost loves, and travel have the freshness of a newly opened window.”

Acoustic Guitar

“I've been listening to one song a day from the album 'cause it's like ice cream or a good novel — like when I read *The Godfather*, I wouldn't read more than two pages 'cuz I didn't want to finish it... That CD is a killer — just a total complete motherfucka.”

George Carlin, Comedian

Selected Appearances...

92Y Tribeca (New York, NY)
The Acoustic Music Club Kirkcaldy (Kirkcaldy, UK)
Bergen Music Fest (Bergen, Norway)
The Birchmere (Alexandria, VA)
The Bluebird Café (Nashville, TN)
The Boston Folk Festival (Boston, MA)
CBGB's Gallery (New York, NY)
Celtic Connections Festival (Glasgow, UK)
Cinéma Jean Vigo (Paris, France)
Club Passim (Cambridge, MA)
Cultureel Podium Roepaen (Ottersum, Netherlands)
The Falcon Ridge Folk Festival (Hillsdale, NY)
Harbour Arts Centre (Irvine, Scotland)
The Iron Horse Music Hall (Northampton, MA)
Madam Felle (Bergen, Norway)
Music Star (Norderstedt, Germany)
Musikfest (Bethlehem, PA)
The Newport Folk Festival (Newport, RI)
The Old Town School of Folk Music (Chicago, IL)
The Patronaat (Haarlem, Netherlands)
PeTiCantus (Hoorn, Netherlands)
La Pomme d'Eve (Paris, France)
The Ram's Head Tavern (Annapolis, MD)
Rick's (Bergen, Norway)
Toogenblik (Brussels, Belgium)
Tros Muziek Cafe (Amsterdam, Netherlands)
World Music Cafe (Philadelphia, PA)

Selected Openings & Co-Bills...

Greg Brown	Taj Mahal
Carlene Carter	David Mallett
Peter Case	Lori McKenna
Kasey Chambers	Lynn Miles
Slaid Cleaves	Bill Morrissey
Guy Davis	Peter Mulvey
Kris Delmhorst	Carrie Newcomer
Jonathan Edwards	Kelly Joe Phelps
Cliff Eberhardt	Utah Phillips
Ramblin' Jack Elliott	Willy Porter
Jay Farrar	Bill Staines
Arlo Guthrie	John Stewart
Patty Larkin	Susan Werner
Adrian Legg	Brooks Williams

Awards & Achievements...

2010 NAPPA Gold Award
2010 Parents' Choice Recommended Award
Nominee, 2007 Boston Music Award,
Outstanding Singer/Songwriter of the Year
Finalist, 2006 Kerrville Folk Festival NewFolk Competition
Winner, 2004 Falcon Ridge Folk Festival New Artist Contest
Winner, 2004 Great Waters Folk Festival Songwriting Contest
Winner, 2004 Sisters Folk Festival Songwriting Contest
Finalist, 2004 South Florida Folk Festival Songwriting Contest
Honorable Mention, 2004 Telluride Troubadour Competition
Award Winner, 2004 Great American Song Contest
Finalist, 2002 USA Songwriting Competition