

# Richard Shindell

## Biography

An expatriate New Yorker now living in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Richard Shindell is a meticulous craftsman of song whose six studio albums and one live recording have been revered by critics and fans alike. Innovative, original and occasionally spiritual, Shindell's songs weave tales that interchangeably champion the downtrodden, exalt the disaffected or wax empathetic to those lost to society's fringes. From his first record, *Sparrow's Point* (1992) to the newest album *Vuelta* (2004), Shindell has demonstrated a penchant for songwriting at once passionate and profound. His songs are often slowly and painstakingly crafted until honed to perfection. Conversely, he is also capable of writing tunes that are simply clever and amusing.

Shindell's songwriting is truly eclectic, ranging from lighthearted ballads and adulterous love songs, to dirges and diatribes that skillfully skewer politics, prejudice, war and religion. He has a unique ability to morph into the soul of the many and varied personalities he casts as narrators in certain songs--songs that are veritable novellas framed in haunting acoustic melodies, sometimes including cryptic, revelations through the eyes of a woman.

Born in New Jersey, Mr. Shindell grew up in Port Washington, Long Island, where he began to take guitar lessons. He spent the last of his teenage years in Baltimore, and then attended Hobart College in upstate New York, where he continued to pursue his musical interests. During an earlier stint at Moravian College, he teamed with John Gorka in the Razy Dazy Spasm Band.

Upon graduation, Shindell moved into a Zen Buddhist monastery for a while, leaving to explore Europe, and ending up the proverbial struggling musician in Paris, where he would often play for coins in the underground Metro train stations.

Leaving the city of light, Shindell found himself in New York, where he took a hiatus from music. Fascinated by philosophy and religion, he enrolled in Union Theological Seminary. Between classes, he began to write and finished what he calls his first "keeper song," a melodic if cryptic ode to the Virgin Mary composed on the mountain dulcimer called "On A Sea Of Fleur de Lis."

Fortunately, it didn't take much to convince the New Jersey-based independent record label, Shanachie, that Mr. Shindell was a songwriter worth signing. Shindell produced three records under the Shanachie label, including *Sparrow's Point* (1992), *Blue Divide* (1994) and *Reunion Hill* (1997), which won the AFIM "Best Contemporary Folk Album" the following year in 1998.

With each successive record, Shindell toured relentlessly, and built a solid following of loyal fans. In 1997, he was invited to join Joan Baez on tour and opened the eyes and ears of a new segment of folk music enthusiasts to his talents as a songwriter and performer. In 1998, Shindell formed the acoustic trio, Cry Cry Cry, with Dar Williams and Lucy Kaplansky. Along with a little help from their friends, Cry Cry Cry produced an eponymously titled album (Razor & Tie Records) comprised largely of cover songs of lesser-known artists. The trio toured from 1998 until 2000, leaving audiences spellbound with their unique three-part harmonies.

In 2000, Shindell released *Somewhere Near Patterson* (Signature Sounds), which quickly became his most successful release to date. Produced by Larry Campbell, longtime member of the Bob Dylan Band, its release was followed by a comprehensive tour that played to sold-out shows across the country and established Shindell as one of the premier performing songwriters in popular music. *Somewhere Near Patterson* was followed by *Courier*, the live reprise of many of Shindell's best-loved songs.

Also in 2000, Shindell and his family moved to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he recorded *Vuelta* (Koch Records, 2004). For this project he joined up with Puente Celeste, a distinctly Argentine group of virtuoso musicians.

Now, Shindell returns north with an astonishing collection of covers called *South of Delia*. To say that *South of Delia* is a record of covers, however, would not do justice to the spirit of this project. It is a deeply personal choice of songs that Shindell offers up here — that of an expatriate looking back at the country he moved away from. With guest appearances by Lucy Kaplansky, Viktor Krauss, Richard Thompson, Tony Trischka, Eliza Gilkyson and others, *South of Delia* offers up new interpretations of songs such as Acadian Driftwood (Robbie Robertson), Seor (Bob Dylan), and Deportee (Woody Guthrie). Shindell also thoroughly rehabilitates Springsteen's often misunderstood Born in the USA.

[www.richardshindell.com](http://www.richardshindell.com)  
<http://www.flemingartists.com/>

# Antje Duvekot

## Biography

Antje Duvekot is one of the brightest singer-songwriters to rise out of Boston's competitive acoustic music scene. She is releasing her second studio album, "The Near Demise of the High Wire Dancer," on Black Wolf Records on March 17, 2009.

Antje chose one of her favorite songwriters, Richard Shindell to produce the album. Richard lent his talent to the record and brought in well respected musicians such as John Gorka, Lucy Kaplansky and Victor Krauss.

**"What a blessing to have worked with someone as talented as Antje. With a voice like hers, and songs as good as these, a producer (especially a first-time producer!) just tries to get out of the way, to do no harm, and to let the artist speak for herself."  
- Richard Shindell**

"The Near Demise of the High Wire Dancer" demonstrates why, according to The Boston Globe, "Antje Duvekot's provocative, dark-eyed ballads are becoming the talk of the folk world. Duvekot has gotten hotter, faster than any local songwriter in recent memory."

The songs on the album reflect both Duvekot's personal journeys and her observations of those of others. Antje remarks "I've come to find that writing about someone else's struggles or happiness feels just as cathartic as writing about my own."

**"As far as I can tell, Antje is the whole package... I've had this reaction once in the past 10 years, and that was the first time I heard Patty Griffin... Antje has proven once again that she ranks with the most intense and beautiful songwriter on the planet"  
- Dave Marsh former Editor of Rolling Stone and XM/ Sirius Satellite Host**

Along with 7 new songs, Antje and Richard decided to add studio versions of some of her best known songs such as, "Merry Go Round", which was used in a Bank of America

national TV ad campaign as well as radio favorite "Long Way". "Since I first recorded this older material live, I have become a better performer", Antje explains "I decided to revive the songs that were worthy and produce them properly so that I should not be such a bad mother to them".

Singer songwriter Ellis Paul says "Antje is the rare artist that can write about the social and the personal in the same breath. She is as understated as she is wise and her songs go down mentally as well as soulfully. Her voice has a sound of innocence and naivety which makes razor sharp insights into the human condition."

<http://www.antjeduvekot.com/>

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