



Chris Murphy

VIOLINIST. COMPOSER. BAND LEADER.

BIO







By his own admission, Chris Murphy is something of an anachronism. “I literally live like a violinist would have lived 200 years ago,” he said. He is also atypical because he came to the violin at age 22, later than most who take up the instrument early in life. After he finished music school, he landed a gig in a bar in south Boston despite the fact that violin at the time was a secondary instrument. As time passed, violin became a passion. “In my journey through folk, jazz, world music, I increasingly became interested in what one instrument could do alone.”

This interest compelled him to follow the path of artists like Leo Kottke and Thelonious Monk, who created great music with a singular instrument. He can carry two 75-minute sets just with his violin and vocals. Much like Bob Dylan, who chooses to perform solo because it “left no one else to blame,” Murphy believes he is responsible for creating not only the music but also the atmosphere for the audience to enjoy.

Murphy is also dedicated to performing only original music, fueled in part by conversations from his younger days with a wise, zen-like jazz bass teacher. The advice given to him by the jazz bass teacher not only sparked a desire to create original music but also helped to fuel his passion for improvisation. “To me, the unknown is more compelling. To create that original work, that’s the world I’m interested in.” And that is the world he creates with every performance, whether it is in an auditorium or at a wedding where he has written songs for the couple’s occasion.

Part of creating a “soundtrack for the moment” is a live looping technique he incorporates into his shows. Murphy lives for live performance, and that passion extends to recorded music as well. Over 16 solo albums, 20 collaborative albums and countless performances, he strives to create music that is timeless and improvisational. And, who knows, he just might be seen as something of a Zen master by some of his students in Los Angeles, where he teaches violin, mandolin, and guitar.

LINKS

-  [instagram.com/chrismurphyviolin](https://www.instagram.com/chrismurphyviolin)
-  [facebook.com/chrismurphymusic1](https://www.facebook.com/chrismurphymusic1)
-  Spotify: <https://bit.ly/48JaxGz>
-  YouTube: bit.ly/3tJyn6m
-  [chrismurphymusic.com](https://www.chrismurphymusic.com)
-  teahouserrecords.bandcamp.com/

PRESS QUOTES

“Haunting and enchanting. A talented and innovative player traveling on the edge.”

DIRTY LINEN MAGAZINE

“It has its listenable qualities in balance with its danceable invigorating elements. Virtually impossible not to smile & tap your foot while listening to this kind of music.”

AMERICANA HIGHWAYS

“Both a wily, charismatic performer and a fire-breathing virtuoso of the violin.”

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