

Jade Alger is an American singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. His music is an eclectic and distinctive style rooted in the folk scene of the 1960s. Also influenced by classical, avant-garde, chanson, chamber folk and world music, he marries poetic wordplay with guitar and cello to create melodic tapestries.

Early on at university he put on a theatrical performance titled *Calabash* in which he wrote the script, composed the music, designed stage props, crafted a marionette and performed as puppeteer together with live actors. Some of his earliest music was written for this one-act play, including the whimsical *Rubrecht* and *Juggernaut of Super-Shooting Beam*.

In 2001 he recorded a low-budget, grassroots album, *The Good Wheel*. His official debut album, *Unfolding the Muse*, was released in 2016 to include 16 affecting songs. Ethereal vocals mingle with arpeggio classical guitar textures as seesaw melodies float above strings and minimalist percussion. Alger's vivid lyricism is dotted with melancholy and expectation as he leaves many of his songs open to interpretation. *Shoes* is a "rhythmic statement of intent, a proclamation of emotional viability that holds to each of our hearts tightly".

His 2018 release is an experimental album titled *Kinora* that expands into more collaboration and instrumentation. This diverse collection incorporates cello into a mixture of classical guitar and folk melodies and shifts focus away from the lyrics and toward neo-classical composition. Travels through Slovakia influenced the making of the album. Portrayals of wanderlust and freedom are subtle hints in tracks like *When The Last Bird Sings*.

*Wind Under the Door* is his most recent assembly of sound. In this five-song EP, he takes us across the seemingly infinite landscapes of America. The title track opens with a cello part that he wrote in 2018, but let simmer for a few years. There is something antiquated and rustic about the ebb and flow of cello, guitar, and drums that weave around a vocal, summoning us to adventure. From Alger's "Cheyenne river dreams" to his "homemade paper whispers", he catches our attention for 22 minutes and then lets us drift off to sleep.

Alger's songwriting and performance is fueled by the belief that music is an abstract art form that awakens something deep within the human soul.