

Discovering the fallibility of fairytales at an early age prompted Richie Ros to undertake his own personal journey, that has since culminated in his unique debut record "Odyssey". Dreamy, timeless and melodic, Richie's music is a vehicle for his inner emotions. Garnished with thoughtful lyrics and uplifting harmonics, at times bluesy and jazzy, Richie Ros maintains his own particular ballad expression underscored with haunting melancholic vocals.

Richie Ros began song writing at the tender and impressionable age of 13, when he used his music as a release for his own turbulent emotions. Although his writing has evolved over the years it stems from a life less ordinary, marked with early loss and rejection. Drawing on the themes of loss and separation Richie Ros draws his listeners into his own emotional journey, in the hope his words will help resonate with their own personal Odyssey. "To be a good song writer," says Richie "means you have to move beyond the personal escapism to create a space for your audience to connect." We can all connect with the loss of faith in the ever after but it's hard to let go of the fairytale when the human condition wants to believe.

During his years in Keele University, while studying for a degree in physiotherapy, Richie translated his work ethic into writing and fine tuning his music. While also busking on the streets of Chicago, Australia and the UK gave Richie the opportunity to develop his own musical techniques, most notably his intricate fingerstyle techniques, reminiscent of Tommy Emmanuel, that has enabled him to produce a dynamic range of songs.

On returning to Ireland from the UK, Richie felt a need to extricate himself from the daily grind and sought solace in Kilkee, a small town on the west coast of Ireland. Amid the wild beauty and melancholic backdrop of the Clare coast Richie chiselled the words of his lyrics and shaped his songs in a place where imagination was his only companion.

From there, Richie Ros travelled to Dublin, immersing himself in its musical culture, collaborating with various musicians and becoming a member of a traditional Irish group "The Poxxy Morons" performing regularly in various pubs and venues across Dublin. However Richie would still need the expertise of an accomplished producer to do justice to his debut record. A serendipitous glance at a Mick Christopher album showed the producer was the talented David Odlum, to whom Richie felt immediately drawn. Richie contacted David and within a few months found himself ensconced in the French countryside where he worked with David and other Irish musicians in producing "Odyssey".

Although the record has developed over a long period of time this worked to Richie's advantage. The songs grew warmer and richer through the production and talents added on over the course of two years with Karl Odlum on bass, Dave Hingearty on Drums, Ruth O Mahoney Brady on Piano, hammond organ and string arrangements, David Odlum & Martin Corcoran on Guitar, Enda Collins on French Horn, and Aidan Kelly on Trumpet.

The early influences of Christy Moore, Luke Kelly, Don Mc Lean, Bob Marley and Sinead O Connor has helped influence his particular style of soulful ballad. His later influence of Mick Christopher imprinted a need for simplicity and emotional passionate song writing. Plaintive and soulful songs, similar to Van Morrison in his

youth or Ray Lamontagne at the debut of his career, would eventually distil into musical ideas that would take years for Richie Ros to cultivate into his own personal style

It is the personal aspect of Richie's songs that greatly adds to their authenticity. His music transports his listeners to a place both deep within and far beyond himself. In the song "Your Garden", lyrics that were written after the death of his father we get an insight into his longing to meet his father again perhaps at a later time in his celestial garden. In "Fairytale", missed opportunities, lies and regrets can stop a soul from believing, while the haunted dreams in "It's Too Late" stem from the child's inability to reconcile himself to his past.

It's the alchemy between the lyrics and plaintive harmonies that makes Richie's music special. The pathos that permeates his melodies provides release for our own disappointed dreams while allowing us to long for the happy ever after.

Throughout the album Richie's inner landscape provides the spring board for his lyrics lending them a richness of expression. As the odyssey culminates in "Strange mentality" Richie Ros comes to the realisation that it's the music is your soul that sets you free. Daring to dream is the first step "Everyone longs for the fairytale," says Richie Ros, "the allure of the ever after is hard to resist. However, you have to work hard and be willing to dedicate yourself to begin to realise your dreams. The only short cuts in life are at the butcher shop."