

Ben Powell – Biography
www.benpowellguitar.com

At the tender age of 26, Ben stumbled across an album, so bewitching, that it change the course of his life. He downed tools, bought an acoustic guitar, and locked himself in a room with Solo by fingerstyle guitar legend Martin Taylor. Seven years later he emerged having rediscovered his childhood love of guitar and clutching a bunch of original guitar melodies which became Preliminaries (2010). The album has gone on to receive critical acclaim in the UK guitar press and is one of Acoustic Guitar (USA) magazine's Essential Acoustic Album's of 2010.

Prior to his wake up call, Ben was studying philosophy and travelling extensively throughout Asia and the Middle East. This existential and explorative period provides the foundation for his creative approach to the guitar. A passion for melody; for making the instrument sing so as to paint giant landscapes, meditative sunsets and romantic moonlit strolls. "I think of myself as a musical travel-writer whose journal contains notes rather than words". Ben is no stranger to the extreme technical demands of contemporary fingerstyle guitar, but his emphasis is primarily on communicating a coherent musical vision. The result is, as Celine Keating describes Preliminaries, "a gorgeous meditation, at once ethereal and earthy".

Since releasing his debut album, Ben has performed a whole spectrum of gigs; from thrilling the Celtic Connections' audience in Glasgow, to entertaining Rolling Stone Ronnie Wood on the sun-drenched streets of Bath. From The Ullapool Guitar Festival in Scotland to contemporary art spaces in central Rome. Ben is now contemplating which bit of the globe to travel to next to inspire his second release.