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Robyn G Shiels: songs come to you like death

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From a man who got into music the first time he heard Don Williams on an old 8 track, it's been a 'long hard slog' to get to the present day. Robyn G Shiels has developed his sound over the past twenty years, and plays an evocative blend of alternative, country and indie. The Northern Irish man doesn't shy away from making 'happy' music, focusing instead on truth, conviction, and the 'conveyance of truth.'

"Writing songs is basically a learning in how well you know yourself," said Robyn, "the good and the bad sides of who and what you really are. As Tom Waits mentioned recently, 'They say that I have no hits and that I'm difficult to work with. And they say that like it's a bad thing.'"

What inspires Robyn? Old 70s lava lamps? Low lighting? Indian carpets?

"Anywhere where 'griminess' can be frowned upon," said Robyn, "in a good way of course!"

"I think as you get older you have more stories to write about. The garnering of these you can only write about when the time comes. And it does. Best not hurry a tune, I've found. They come to you, y'know, like Death itself."

David Holmes – who scored films for the likes of Hollywood director Steven Soderbergh – chose Robyn's song "Hello Death" for the movie Cherrybomb. The song is from the soon-to-be released album "The Blood of The Innocents."

"The movie helped raise my profile to a larger audience who seemed to take to the song quite alarmingly," said Robyn. "We ended up having to release it as a one off single via iTunes due to the increasing demand when the movie was released on DVD last year."

Robyn tries to play songs with 'a wee bit of chaos attached.'

"I'm fortunate enough to have a good mate and fellow band member Ben McAuley who works in Start Together Studios who knows his stuff when it comes to recording tunes," said Robyn. "I write them. We play the tune till we know where we're at with it, and Ben does all the rest. We basically try and record the song live so it feels like there's a bit of life in the beast."

"It helps when you're both on the same page. It's always a pleasure and never a chore working with likeminded folk, it has to be said – there's where the magic happens."

[In a Month of Sundays](#) by [robbygshiels](#)

Robyn is planning to tour later this year and release his new album "The Blood of The Innocents."