

Al Stewart to Tour UK and Ireland

By **Alexander Baron** - Feb 21, 2015



Al Stewart Year of The Cat

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In April and May, Al Stewart will be crossing the Atlantic to perform in Dublin, Glasgow – the city of his birth – and a large number of dates in England culminating at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

If by chance you have not heard of the inventor of historical folk-rock, you should start by checking out his [official website](#). You will find the stories behind many of his songs on [Songfacts](#), and much footage of the man himself on YouTube.



Al Stewart's live performance

Briefly, he was born in 1945, moved south with his widowed mother, and at the height of the Swinging Sixties relocated to the capital where he broke through on the folk scene. His second album, *Love Chronicles*, caused controversy by its use of the dreaded F word, something that doesn't raise an eyebrow most of the time these days. His third album *Zero She Flies* contained the song *Manuscript*, the first in the genre of historical

folk-rock. His big break though came in 1976 with his massive *Year Of The Cat* album. If someone knows only one Al Stewart song, it is usually the album's title track.

After *Year Of The Cat*, Al relocated again, to the West Coast. Shaking off the ghost of Mandi, the girl who inspired many of his early songs, broke his heart, and haunted him for two decades, he married late in life and raised two daughters who are as American as Mom's apple pie. His youngest, the alluringly named Daisy, plays the cello, and has performed with her Dad.

In 2013, Al performed the entire *Year Of The Cat* album live at London's Royal Albert Hall. There are snippets of that concert available on YouTube, but only mobile phone quality footage, because **according to** his guitarist and acolyte Dave Nachmanoff, the venue had demanded a £20,000 recording fee!

The Dublin and Glasgow concerts will see Al and a full band performing the entire album again, while the **Royal Albert Hall concert** will also include the entire *Past, Present And Future* album which contains the epic songs *Roads To Moscow* and *Nostradamus*.

Let's end this article with the video of greatest hits by Al Stewart:

