

## **JOEL KROEKER**

**Joel Kroeker began playing guitar while in high school Winnipeg, Manitoba and played in different folk, jazz, world beat, rock bands over the years. Following high school, he completed a Bachelor of Music in Composition and Guitar Performance at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. Then he completed a Masters Degree in Ethnomusicology and Popular Music Studies from the University of Alberta in Edmonton.**

**His debut CD "Naive Bohemian," released independently in 1999 by his Dancing Monk Productions, reached # 7 on the Canadian National Campus Radio Specialty chart. The same year Joel was named Best New Recording Artist by the Alberta Recording Industry Assn., and won the Film Score of the Year category for the documentary "Tokyo Gardens."**

**Following the release of his critically-acclaimed 2004 True North Records album "Melodrama," Joel performed alongside Sarah Harmer, Serena Ryder, Hawksley Workman, Colin Linden, Paul Kelly, Tal Bachman Andy Stochansky, Stephen Fearing, Colin Linden, and Randy Bachman.**

**Joel's current True North album "Closer To The Flame" chronicles observations of a spiritual world traveler. For his songs Joel drew inspiration from varied sources, his childhood growing up in the prairie flatlands to the strife-ridden streets of war Bethlehem rife with Israeli /Palestinian tensions.**

**"Closer To The Flame" features "Déjà vu" a French/English duet written and performed by Joel and Quebec star Dany Bedar. The track has been a major hit in Quebec. Its video reached #1 at MusiMax video channel in January 2007.**