

# GARY OGAN / sound ground

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Songwriter, poet,  
musician, magician

That last adjective might seem out of place, but it isn't. There's really no other way to describe what Gary Ogan does. The guy doesn't write songs so much as he conjures them. He reaches into a place that's off limits to most mortals and brings forth musical treasures that surprise, delight and inspire.

Ogan's ability to cast a musical spell is on full display in his new album, *Sound Ground*. In eleven tracks that range from slick blue-eyed soul and sultry funk to gospel-flavored ballads and irresistible pop rock, the multi-talented artist stakes a claim once again as one of Portland, Oregon's greatest music exports.

In an under-the-radar career spanning four decades, Ogan began as part of a duo called Portland which was signed to Elektra Records in 1972. In 1977, he landed a solo deal with Warner Brothers. In the years that followed, Ogan produced two albums for Leon Russell, sang on many releases including Johnny Mathis, Quarterflash, Craig Carothers and Sand and had his songs covered by artists like Nicolette Larson, Maria Muldaur and This Mortal Coil. Gary spent the late 90s in Nashville as a staff songwriter for Sony/Tree Music which published over 60 of his songs.

In 2006, he was tapped to become the drummer for award-winning Nashville songwriter Darrell Scott (Dixie Chicks, Steve Earle, Guy Clark and Robert Plant). During this chapter the songs came fast - over a three-week period he wrote the songs that became *Sound Ground*.

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*"Gary Ogan is a soul man - reminds me of Donald Fagen. His arrangements are distinctive and passionate, and he plays every instrument on the record which reminds me of the solo records by Stevie Wonder and Paul McCartney. This man needs to be heard."* - **Brian Ahern**

*". . . as an artist, you row your own boat in a way that is pleasing and rewarding to the soul. I think you're a great artist and a quality record maker."* - **Leon Russell**



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When Ogan set out to record the songs for what would become *Sound Ground*, the multi-instrumentalist decided to go it alone. The album is a one-man-band affair in the great tradition of record makers like Paul McCartney, Stevie Wonder and Todd Rundgren. Every note – from keyboards and vocals to guitars and drums – was created by Gary. In another nod to his wizardry, *Sound Ground* was recorded without the benefit of click tracks and other electronic fixes.

“I wanted to reach back to that wonderful place in time when those guys were making records by themselves,” Ogan says. “To me, that was a real high point, and I wanted to pick up the torch of that particular approach to recording. When my old buddy from the early 70s, Doug Dubrow, stepped up to mix and master the project, the circle was complete.”

The result is music that lives and breathes in a way that’s all but forgotten these days. In a musical culture that values artifice over art and trends over talent, *Sound Ground* seems almost shockingly honest.

It’s the document of a talented musician who has found a measure of peace and hard-won wisdom. Each track is a message from a man with nothing left to prove, making music for the sheer joy of it. It’s the sound of soul triumphing over technology.

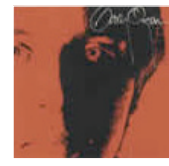
In 2008, in the middle of the sessions for *Sound Ground*, Ogan was inducted into the Oregon Music Hall of Fame – fitting recognition for an artist whose music has touched so many for so many years.

Right now, for Gary Ogan, life is good. And with the release of *Sound Ground*, it’s about to get even better.

## DISCOGRAPHY



**1972 *Portland***  
With Bill Lamb.  
Produced by Marlin Greene and Greg Branson. Elektra Records.



**1977 *Gary Ogan***  
Produced by Gary Ogan, Leon Russell, and Greg Branson. Paradise Records / Warner Bros.



**1982 *Let Go The Heart*** Produced and arranged by Gary Ogan. All songs written by Gary Ogan and Ron Stassens. Seagull Records.



**1992 *Voices***  
Co-producer, drums, keyboards, vocalist, guitars. Compilation benefit CD. All songs written and arranged by Gary Ogan. Independent.



**2000 *Barcelona***  
Written, produced, arranged, performed, engineered and mixed by Gary Ogan. Independent.



**2010 *Sound Ground***  
Written, arranged, produced, engineered and performed by Gary Ogan. Mixed and mastered by Doug Durbrow. Independent.



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