



Eddie McGarry

P.O. Box 67314, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

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## Bio

Boston-based singer/songwriter Eddie McGarry grew up in Hyannis, Massachusetts. In fact, his debut performance occurred at the age of ten at the Hyannis Street Festival (see attached clipping). Since then, Eddie has been writing songs and playing at clubs in Boston and on Cape Cod trying out new material and developing his portfolio of songs. One night after playing the song, "Beautiful Girl," at The Prodigal Son in Hyannis, a woman called out from the audience, "Do you have a CD?" He realized that it was time to record one.

A prolific songwriter, McGarry writes songs in a contemporary folk style with rock, country, and blues influences. McGarry's lyrics always tell a story. Each song is like a snapshot from the singer's life characterized by a sincere emotion and a twist of poetry. The songs range from a working class story with a rock beat ("Better Times Comin' Round") to a soft countryesque ballad that anyone who's asked someone to dance can relate to ("Nice to Dance").

McGarry has just released his debut album, *Heat from the Spark*, under his own label, Green Line Music. For backup on the album, McGarry enlisted the talents of musicians Jim Henry (lead guitar and mandolin), Richard Gates (bass), Paul Kochanski (upright bass), Doug Plavin (percussion), and Joe Barbado (accordion). McGarry has begun to promote the album on live radio broadcasts on WOMR (Provincetown) with Bill Slater, 104.7 FM The Rocket's "The Cheap Seats" with Cat Wilson, and "Something Different" with Joan Orr on WATD 95.9 FM.

Eddie McGarry is the youngest of ten children and from a musical family: Five of his siblings (Kate McGarry, Margy Backus, Tricia Lawyer, Allen McGarry, and Beth Sheehan) perform background vocals on the debut album.

When he's not singing or writing songs, Eddie makes his living as a firefighter in Chelsea, Massachusetts.

Original photo ran in *The Barnstable Patriot* on July 30, 1981 and re-ran in the newspaper's *Early Files* on August 2, 2001. Eddie McGarry (at age 10) is on the left



Photo courtesy of *The Barnstable Patriot*, July 30, 1981

SONG AND DANCE TEAM - Eddie McGarry and David Pollock, Hyannis 6th graders, will be giving a tap dance and guitar duet at the Hyannis Street Festival.



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## Heat from the Spark Album Details

All words and music on "Heat from the Spark" were written by Eddie McGarry. Additional lyrics on "Older Each Time" by Allen McGarry.

Producer: Jay Sheehan.

Co-producer: Eddie McGarry.

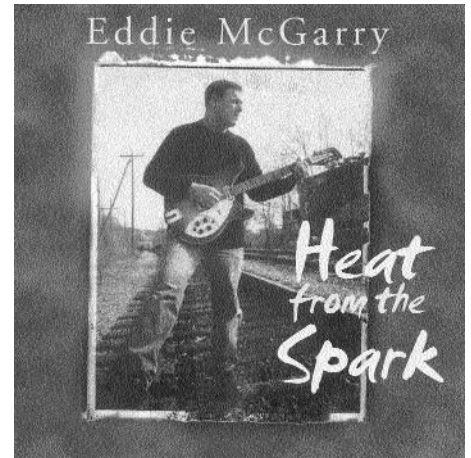
All string parts were arranged and conducted by Steven Santoro Kowalczyk. Backup vocal arrangements were done by Steven Santoro Kowalczyk and Kate McGarry. All songs were recorded at Signature Sounds, except accordion part on "Nice to Dance" recorded at John Hegner Music, New York, NY.

Engineered by Mark Thayer at Signature Sounds, Palmer, Massachusetts.

Mastered by Bob St. John at PDQ Studio.

Album photography by Star Drooker.

Album graphic design by Lehndorff Design.



Artist: Eddie McGarry

UPC: 822800123426

Label: Green Line Music

Retail Price: \$11.99

Available at: [www.eddiemcgarry.com](http://www.eddiemcgarry.com)

### WHO DID WHAT...

Jim Henry: lead guitar, mandolin, dobro

Richard Gates: bass

Joe Barbado: accordion

Paul Kochanski: upright bass

Steven Santoro Kowalczyk: backup vocals,  
Rhodes piano

Doug Plavin: drums

Pat Bellavance: harmonica

Chris Haynes: accordion

Joanna Kaczorowska: violin

David Kovac: viola

John McGann: mandolin

Pat Murray: uilleann pipes, pennywhistle

Gregg Snedeker: cello

Backup vocals and harmony: Margy Backus, Tricia Lawyer,  
Allen McGarry, Kate McGarry,  
Beth Sheehan, and Andrea Terrio

### Tracks

1. I'm Alright Tonight 4:36
2. Will You See Me Tonight 4:33
3. Beautiful Girl 4:10
4. Always 5:18
5. Older Each Time 5:55
6. Classified 4:00
7. Heat from the Spark 3:57
8. Better Times Comin' Round 3:32
9. Nice to Dance 2:58
10. The All Out 6:30



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## Upcoming Gigs

- June 28, 2003    Cityside Bar & Grill, Malden, Mass. 10 p.m.
- July 12, 2003    Borders Books & Music, Kingston, Mass. 7 p.m.
- July 20, 2003    Center Stage Cafe, Dennis, Mass. 9 p.m.
- July 26, 2003    Border Books & Music, Hyannis, Mass. 7 p.m.
- August 22, 2003    The Prodigal Son, Hyannis, Mass.
- Sept. 19, 2003    Blue Wall Pub, Amherst, Mass.
- Nov. 21, 2003    Blue Wall Pub, Amherst, Mass.

For more performances, visit [www.eddiemcgarry.com/gigs.htm](http://www.eddiemcgarry.com/gigs.htm)



## Review: Velvet Park magazine

Eddie McGarry has a sure cure for the chronically hip. With his debut recording of ten acoustic originals aptly entitled, "Heat from the Spark,"

McGarry offers his listeners an intimate and rare perspective of life through the eyes of a nervous teen, a husband, a new father, and even an old man. And it's rendered with a degree of candor that would make any quiche-eating man blush.

I mean, what kind of guy writes a song about losing his virginity, wishing he hadn't given it away so cheaply? If the writing weren't so disarming it might just seem old fashioned--but McGarry, a Boston-based songwriter and fireman to boot, manages to offer his salt o' the earth attitude without the faintest odor of moralism. Nor is there the usual quotient of misogyny we've come to expect from the multitude of self-absorbed, young male songwriters on the singer/songwriter scene. How refreshing.

In "The All Out" he sings about the loss of six of his co-firefighters in a tragic blaze. Written pre 9/11, this ode provides the bottom line insider perspective with notable humility. Especially heart wrenching is the ending, a wordless vocal soaring over the chaotic clanging of the fire bell and the uilleann pipes.

As usual, McGarry's ideas are impassioned but never self-righteous.

Other standouts include the title track "Heat from the Spark" and the redolent "Older Each Time" in which McGarry muses "Julie, she was halfway down to my place -- bet you seven roses she changed her mind. The tea's getting cold. I'm tired, getting older -- getting older each time."

"Heat from the Spark" also includes a number of tracks that will raise your blood pressure at least a few notches. "Better Times Comin' Round," with its muscular guitar and harmonica solos, the Beatlesque "Will You See Me Tonight," and "Always," one of three tracks on which McGarry had the halogen to call in Steve Santoro who artfully arranged for a small but potent string section. Kudos to producer Jay Sheehan for pulling together a commercially appealing product that manages to maintain the sanctity of McGarry's hip-free zone. In today's whiney, angst-driven musical climate, "Heat from the Spark" is an unguarded piece of Americana that will warm the heart of anyone who can put their cell-phone down long enough to listen.

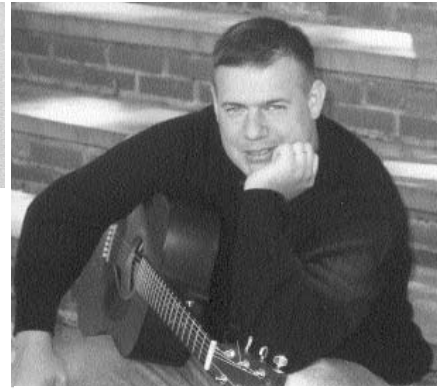
--Velvet Park magazine, July 2002



August 23, 2002

## Firefighter-songwriter returns to offer *Heat from the Spark*

By David Curran



Eddie McGarry

At first listen, the voice is reminiscent of Enrique Iglesias' balladeer persona, as in the Latin hearthrob's 2001 smash, "Hero." But then you listen to the songs, and you realize it couldn't be, for these are no mere pop confections.

Take "The All Out," a song about real heroes. Eddie McGarry was hesitant about putting it on his debut CD, he says, because he didn't want to be perceived as exploiting tragedy. He knew that was not why he wrote the song, or why he performs it. But he was concerned it might look that way.

The song is a memorial to six Worcester firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty Dec. 3, 1999. McGarry, a Barnstable native and at the time a firefighter in Sandwich, wrote the tribute before the month was out.

"Everybody remembers where they were when Kennedy was shot," McGarry says. "Being a fireman, it had that kind of effect on me."

Firefighters know their work is dangerous, that putting their lives on the line to save others and their property is what they do. Firefighters die in Massachusetts every year. McGarry doesn't know whether this tragedy resonated especially strongly because he learned of the deaths when they were announced at a party he was attending to celebrate the retirement of a Needham firefighter.

Perhaps it resonated because he is the youngest of 10 children. Seventeen children lost firefighter fathers to the Worcester blaze.

"This is just a song," he says. "These people are going to wake up every day and realize that their guys aren't coming home."

McGarry, now a firefighter in Chelsea and a Boston resident, is a good \$20,000 away from profiting from anyone's tragedy by way of his music. That's how much he has invested in *Heat from the Spark*, his brand new CD on his own Green Line Music label.

For a 32-year-old firefighter with a wife - Michelle - and two small children - daughter Zoa, 3, and son James, whose second birthday is in September - \$20,000 is a lot of money. But McGarry doesn't seem concerned about that. Instead, he's grateful for having had the opportunity to hire the musicians who perform on the record - musicians who have graced recordings by the likes of Suzanne Vega and Jonatha Brooke, to name two. He even sprang for a string section on some tracks.

"With no regrets," he says, later adding, "Now I realize how lucky I was to be really blessed by running into good people. You surround yourself with good people and you come out sounding OK."

"OK" is a bit of an understatement. The performances on *Heat from the Spark* are uniformly strong, and the recording's production values bespeak a budget rather larger than what McGarry laid out.

It helped that five of his siblings contributed background vocals, but the biggest assist came from sister Kate. A New York-based jazz singer whose second release, *Show Me*, came out last year,

Kate introduced her baby brother to some of the musicians who play on *Heat from the Spark*, including Steven Santoro Kowalczyk, another jazz singer who arranged and conducted the string parts. Kowalczyk and Kate McGarry collaborated on the background vocal arrangements.

McGarry wrote, sings and plays guitar on the record's 10 songs. His brother Allen, is credited for additional lyrics on one song.

Strictly a rhythm player, McGarry sticks mostly to acoustic guitar on the CD, though his 12-string electric Rickenbacker pops up on two tracks. He leaves the lead parts to others he readily admits are more gifted in that facet of music.

Not that McGarry's playing is by any means an afterthought. Each song is built on the foundation of his percussive style and compound chord voicings. Every one could stand alone, bereft of accompaniment but for his guitar - and has in performance.

McGarry has been making music with others since - well - since he's been making music. The household was always alive with song when he was growing up - the family often sang around the kitchen table, and the piano was no less indispensable.

"I think it started singing the old Irish songs and listening to the Glen Miller Orchestra, that kind of stuff," he recalls.

McGarry appeared in the pages of *The Barnstable Patriot* more than 20 years ago, playing an acoustic guitar as half of a guitar-and-tap-dance duet with David Pollock at the 1981 Hyannis Street Festival.

When he was 13, he and three friends formed The System, a cover band, but it was not long before he began to itch to write his own songs. He eventually left The System, but former band mates Mike and Dan Paduck and Steve Gouviea are still together almost 20 years later. Their band, The Risk, gigs frequently on the Cape and in Greater Boston, and has a standing engagement at the Improper Bostonian in Dennisport.

In fact, The Risk has more gigs than McGarry does.

"I try to be faithful about (performing) at least twice a week," he says, but most of his opportunities right now are in open mic settings in and around Boston as he works to build a fan base.

McGarry isn't complaining. Open mics have played a significant part in his musical development, as has pretty much everything in his life.

At open mics, he meets fellow musicians. They share their industry contacts, provide each other with supportive audiences, and build a network of kindred spirits. At an open mic at the Prodigal Son in Hyannis three years ago, an audience member called out after he finished a song, "Do you have a CD?"

With the release of *Heat from the Spark*, he does. After tonight's engagement, release parties are scheduled Aug. 30 in Brookline and Sept. 20 in Northampton.

# CAPE COD TIMES

CAPE COD TIMES

## Cape Week

August 23, 2002

CAPEWEEK • CAPE COD TIMES

## Best bets

Barnstable High School graduate and Chelsea firefighter Eddie McGarry will return to his old stomping grounds for the release party of his first CD, "Heat from the Spark." He'll perform with Andrea Terrio and Bill Slater at 8 p.m. at Liberty Hall, 2150 Main St., Marstons Mills. \$10 includes wine and hors d'oeuvres.



**HOMETOWN BOY:**  
Barnstable High School graduate Eddie McGarry will play songs from his new CD Friday in Marstons Mills.

# CAPE COD TIMES

CAPE COD TIMES

## Cape Week

## MUSIC & NIGHTLIFE

\* SOUND CHOICE \*

October 25, 2002

### FIREFIGHTER EDDIE MCGARRY FINDS TIME TO PERFORM

By Bill O'Neil, Lifestyle Editor

Friday's show at the Prodigal Son in Hyannis will be a homecoming in several ways for Eddie McGarry. The singer-songwriter, who lives in Boston, was born and raised in Hyannis. More important, as far as his performing career is concerned, it was at the Prodigal Son that he received an essential nudge from an audience member.

After McGarry had finished singing the song, "Beautiful Girl" at an open-mike session about five years ago, a woman in the audience asked him if he had a CD. "I talked to my wife, Michelle, and she was supportive, so I started working on one," he says.

His Friday show will be his first at the Prodigal since he completed "Heat from the Spark," a collection of 10 contemporary-folk songs. The songs have a wide range, recalling Cat Stevens at some points, an unplugged Counting Crows at others. Local singer Andrea Terrio, who provided harmony vocals on two songs on the CD, will perform with McGarry at the Prodigal show.

McGarry grew up in a family of performers. Sister Kate is a jazz vocalist with two CDs, and brother Neil is an actor. Eddie's biggest influence in his family was his brother Allen, who taught Eddie some guitar basics (Eddie furthered his studies by closely listening to Beatles albums). McGarry received a guitar for Christmas when he was 7 and wrote his first song when he was 15.

He always wanted to be a performing musician, but McGarry long felt the call of another career. "From as early as I can remember, I wanted to be a fireman," he says. He was an auxiliary fireman while at Barnstable High School and then earned an associates degree in fire science. He worked for the Sandwich Fire Department from 1993 to 2000, before taking a job with the Chelsea Fire Department. "I always wanted to work for a city fire department," he says. The father of two, McGarry says his work as a firefighter makes his part-time work as a musician possible. "You have to put the bacon on the table," he says.

McGarry's CD closes with "The All Out," a tribute to six firemen killed in a Worcester fire in 1999. The last sounds on the song are clanging firebells, a wailing Uilleann pipe and McGarry's wordless, mournful vocals. "I wanted to do something that was tasteful and respectful," he says.

He says people have always been appreciative to firefighters, but are a little more conscious of their work since the tragedies of September 11, 2001. "I feel awkward when people thank me, because it's a privilege to serve the public," he says. "I don't take it lightly."



**Cape native Eddie McGarry returns to Hyannis Friday for a concert.**

# CAPE COD TIMES

## CD REVIEWS November 2002

**"Heat from the Spark," Eddie McGarry,  
(Green Line, [www.eddiemcgarry.com](http://www.eddiemcgarry.com))  
4 stars**

"Barnstable native Eddie McGarry is a firefighter in Chelsea, not necessarily the kind of guy you'd expect to deliver a CD of mellow and catchy folk-rock songs. **The guy has a gift for writing and performing songs that are sensitive without being syrupy.** He also has a knack for attracting talented assistants, including experienced session players Richard Gates, Jim Henry and Doug Plavin. Also helping out are three of McGarry's sisters, one of his brothers, and local performer Andrea Terrio.

What holds the CD together is McGarry's Songwriting talent. **At times he's as ethereal as Cat Stevens, at other points he's as earthy as the Counting Crows.** And when he pays tribute to six fallen firefighters on the CD-closing 'The All Out,' he proves that he can take an experience that's far from universal and translate its pain for all to feel."

*--Bill O'Neil, Lifestyle Editor*

green line music

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## ***Boston Soundcheck, May 2003***

EDDIE MCGARRY - HHH (Very Good)

Heat From The Spark

Contact: [eddiemcgarry.com](http://eddiemcgarry.com)

May 2003

Eddie McGarry's mixture of singer/songwriter with adult contemporary themes makes for some quality material on *Heat From The Spark*. "I'm Alright Tonight" leads ...*Spark* off and exhibits a kind of acoustic Bob Seger but with stronger musical palettes and hooks and an enticing string arrangement...the latter being a prominent and effective element of ...*Spark*. "Will You See Me Tonight" calls to mind some of the more recent material from John Mellencamp but more structurally focused on blues themes...a perfect display of influence and originality. Some very subtle but effective background vocals from Kate and Allen McGarry add to "...Tonight" just what it needs. All of McGarry's compositions have a very touching musical demeanor to them most evident in "Beautiful Girl." The first ballad on the disc it incorporates mainly McGarry, an acoustic guitar and more string arrangements but this time adding some plucked violin strings to the mix giving "Beautiful Girl" an almost orchestral backdrop. "Always" possesses the most infectious hook and "Classified" stand out as one of the record's fortes displaying influences from the Dave Matthews Band. "Better Times Comin' Around" is the most aggressive selection during which we hear an electric guitar delivering some smoky bluesy leads and riffs from Jim Henry and a gripping harmonica intro from Pat Bellavance. "The All Out" closes the disc and while McGarry doesn't go all out as he does during "Better Times..." he picks an effective selection to close ...*Spark* as "The All Out" adheres to the acoustic themes and structures that are heard in McGarry's staple song writing. --Karl Russo

# MESSAGE

FROM THE

# HOMELAND

#9

**Eddie McGarry is the reason that I scour open mics** filled with stoned out Bob Dylan wannabes and washed up punk rockers trying to imitate Dashboard Confessional. At the ripe age of 32, Eddie **McGarry's lyrics are personal and intimate without the superficial edge** that plagues many younger musicians. By industry standards, McGarry is too old to be an up and coming musician and too young to be a seasoned veteran. With *Heat from the Spark* as a debut album tracing McGarry's musical growth with songs written as far back as 1993, **McGarry offers a refreshing insight** that can only come from a man who has grown a lot in the past decade. His roles as husband, father of two young children, and firefighter all shine through his surprisingly coherent and honest lyrics that are priceless considering all the stoned out 'singer-songwriters' who strum basic power chords while singing songs so full of imagery that the inspiration for the very music is indecipherable. While many musicians fall into record deals and release an album within a year of acquiring rudimentary knowledge of their instruments because of connections with friends, McGarry has played guitar for over two decades before self-releasing *Heat from the Spark*. This album is not the testament of a washed up overgrown punk recording a few jams on a boom box under the guise of DIY pride.

**McGarry's debut is actually well put together, sounding and looking as solidly produced as anything by Creed or the Calling.** Musically, *Heat from the Spark* is a far cry from those (ex) Boston firefighter punk rock classics from the early Dropkick Murphys. **McGarry's sound rests somewhere between the acoustic Counting Crows VH1 Storytellers session from 1997, the bright eyes street musician playing in David Square tonight, and the alternative country being pumped out of the High Plains lately.** Eddie doesn't try to posture how emotional he is, demonstrating a Dream Theatre-like mastery of the guitar, or have the Boston Pops backing his music. Like the Anaheim Angels middle infield, he simply does he job and does it well with an often laid back but sometimes intense tempo with an occasional solo tossed in. McGarry often plays live shows solo but on *Heat from the Spark* he is accompanied by about a dozen other musicians, many of whom are part of his ten-sibling family. As a blue-collar Irish-Catholic firefighter with a huge family McGarry may fit the mold, but *Heat from the Spark* with its laid back but intense honesty, professional DIY-style production, and middle aged singer counter many of the stereotypes that one could expect from a debut album by a Boston based singer-songwriter."

--David Lucander

# Eddie McGarry

[www.eddiemcgarry.com](http://www.eddiemcgarry.com)



"The guy has a gift for writing and performing songs that are sensitive without being syrupy...**At times [McGarry's] as ethereal as Cat Stevens, at other points he's as earthy as the Counting Crows.** 4 stars."

--Bill O'Neil, Lifestyle Editor, *The Cape Cod Times*

**Eddie McGarry has a sure cure for the chronically hip...Heat from the Spark** is an unguarded piece of Americana that will warm the heart of anyone."--*Velvet Park* magazine

"I'm Alright Tonight" leads ...*Spark off and exhibits a kind of acoustic Bob Seger but with stronger musical palettes and hooks and an enticing string arrangement...the latter being a prominent and effective element of ...*Spark*. "Will You See Me Tonight" calls to mind some of the more recent material from John Mellencamp but more structurally focused on blues themes...**a perfect display of influence and originality**...All of McGarry's compositions have a very touching musical demeanor to them most evident in "Beautiful Girl."*

--Karl Russo, *Boston Soundcheck* magazine

At first listen, the voice is reminiscent of Enrique Iglesias' balladeer persona...but then you listen to the songs, and you realize it couldn't be, for **these are no mere pop confections.**"

--David Curran, *The Barnstable Patriot*

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--David Lucander, *Message from the Homeland*



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## Suggested Radio Play List:

1. I'm Alright Tonight (4:36)
2. Will You See Me Tonight (4:33)
6. Classified (4:00)
9. Nice to Dance (2:58)