**PRESS**

[On ‘In Rivers’] Raw and fulfilling! With the release of 'In Rivers' Tom Craven cements his established place on the London Circuit with a rawness and minimal production that will leave you yearning for more. This year's must have E.P heralds an exciting future in Grass Roots English Music and a return of the professional – 5\*

– iTunes Review: Jimmy8ball 2015

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[On ‘LETTER/DIARY’] It's Craven time! Tom Craven shows off his perfected sound in Letter/Diary highly recommended – 5\*

-iTunes Review: Michael Risbridger 2012

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[On ‘LETTER/DIARY’] Omg Never heard anything quite like it! Highly recommended as a new find for people's iPods! – 5\*

* iTunes Review: Jack Staples 2014

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[On ‘In Rivers’] **In Rivers** is the new EP by Hertfordshire’s very own **Tom Craven**, launched on the 18th of July 2015 at **Ye Olde Fighting Cocks** in St Albans. Though this is not his first release, this 10 year veteran of the UK’s independent music scene launched this dynamic 4 track collection with as much energy, excitement and enthusiasm as if it were his debut!

It cannot be denied that “**In Rivers**” is a change from **Tom Craven**‘s normal genre of Alt. Pop as found in his previous albums but the change is as equally welcomed to his audiences as if it were to be the same.

It can be said that “**In Rivers**” is a modern day interpretation of Folk with its uses of language and musicality throughout… yet to purely hold it under such a banner would take away the bold, shining light of who wrote the music. It would restrict new audiences from discovering the soul, passion, quirks and talent of Mr **Tom Craven** himself.

**Tom Craven** is a prolific and celebrated singer/songwriter within his field, who relatively takes inspiration from experience, surroundings and those around him. From this writers’ perspective, the true underlying beauty of “**In Rivers**” is its sense of reality. The raw sense of intimacy that is usually only found in live performances. The truth of the artist behind the microphone and speakers. The heart behind the strings.

And so I invite one and all to experience the dynamic and flowing journey that comes in hand with the purchase of **Tom Craven**‘s EP “**In Rivers**.”

* Jim Kirby – bandofbadgerspresents.com - 2015

<https://bandofbadgerspresents.com/2015/08/02/tom-craven-in-rivers-an-ep-review-by-james-kirby/>

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[On LETTER/DIARY] “LETTER/DIARY is a bold & eclectic collection of songs - ranging from delicate, emotional indie, through alt-country, then ending as a melodic, post-emo, almost-epic rock album, suited to lazy days & driving nights.”

* CDBaby Review – Unknown Author 2012

[On ‘Oceans’] “A shade apologetically Tom Craven says his repertoire contains “the inevitable acoustic stuff” – the consequence I imagine of his influences including Idlewild, Turin Brakes and Alanis Morrisette.

In so doing he reveals an awareness that mid-nineties britpop morphed into late-nineties busk-rock and spawned an ocean of earnest acoustic noodlers largely indistinguishable from one another among their six minute strumathons of morose introspection.

Happily for Mr Craven, advance apologies prove unwarranted. Of the material he’s made available to hear on Soundcloud, imho his most memorable set is 2010’s Oceans EP. Acoustic!

With one, sometimes two guitars as the sole backing for Craven’s vocals, his melodies and lyrics are laid bare to stand or fall on their own merit. They don’t fall.

Subject matter is varied and the tunes and voice are strong. The guitar playing is confident, assured and dynamic enough to hold the listener’s attention from start to finish – no mean feat on an all acoustic ep. You get urgency of sound and optimism of spirit in Heads Rule Hearts followed by their flipsides – a ballad of loss and despair that is A Last Time For Everything.

Then the track which has left the biggest impression on me – (Parisian) Trial By Fire. This compares well with some of the stuff James Dean Bradfield does on the Manics’ Everything Must Go album – I’m thinking in particular here of songs such as Removables and Elvis Impersonator: Blackpool Pier.

It’s spiky, angry even, and its most memorable line describes a character in the song as being “like showrooms on the Champs Elysees – unnecessarily antisocial”. Good eh?

* Noel Cowley – Blog Review - NOVEMBER 23, 2013

<https://noelcowley.wordpress.com/2013/11/23/st-albands-vol-2-tom-craven-broken-boat-the-neverists/>

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MAGAZINE ARTICLE: <http://www.optimamagazine.co.uk/read/leisure/places-to-go/193-tom-craven-in-the-spotlight>

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MENTION: <https://savethecrescent.wordpress.com/tag/chloe-james-hiv-charity-event/>

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RANDOM: <http://www.artisttrove.com/artist/41389117852/Tom+Craven>

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BLUES FROM THE HERTS – TOM CRAVEN 1

April 23, 2015 by Rob Powell

Not only is Tom Craven a 10 year veteran of the Herts performing scene but he is also a remarkable host for a plethora of music events with his organisation Papermouth.

Live, he is an entertainer through and through but behind the front man is a musician proud of those who went before, are behind and that surround him. He knows the business, the determination and the talent needed for success. But, behind all this Tom holds to the true love of music.

Tom’s recording catalogue is (as he states with a quirky smile) “varied” but through the generations of his music both style and skill evolve. This is evidenced by his ability to adapt and combine genres throughout his albums as well as his talent for wordsmanship and lyrical arrangement.

It also gives me great pleasure to announce that

* Robb Powell – bandofbadgerspresents.com article about Blues From The Herts Compilation for SANE Charity - 2015

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NO BUM NOTES (COMPILATION ENTRY): <https://aid4ccuk.bandcamp.com/album/no-bum-notes-volume-1>

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SAVE BAILEY GUITARS (COMPILATION ENTRY): <https://samwinston.bandcamp.com/album/save-bailey-guitars-compilation-album>

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BLUES FROM THE HERTS (COMPILATION ENTRY): <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/album/blues-from-the-herts/id999816306>

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ISABELA SANTOS

NOV 23, 2015 20:44

"The more I hear the more I like, best, Isabela"

<https://www.musicraiser.com/projects/4530-in-rivers-ep-limited-vinyl-edition-tour/comments>

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SMALL GRANTS FUND VIDEO FOR WATFORD COUNCIL: <https://youtu.be/pJIiRg9qSqE>

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RUNNIN’ ON EMPTY TWEET: Proud of all you've achieved and are achieving, and proud to know you of course, on- wards N up-wards in 2017 Mr Craven ;) x

* <https://twitter.com/RunninOnEmptee> 7:57 AM - 6 Jan 2017

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Tom Craven's passionate songwriting burns throughout his nuanced and graceful performances. A recent appearance on my radio show covering Joan Osborne's "One Of Us" was electrifying and caused the hairs on the back of my neck to rise!

- Danny Smith, Radio Verulam

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One track that swiftly caught my ear from Craven's E.P. In Rivers was "Beneath The Burning Moon". With subtle, crystal-clear vocals that demonstrate the artist's talent for melody & vibrato, plus the haunting eponymous refrain, "Burning Moon" lingers in the mind of the listener long after its 4 minutes of playback.

The driving rhythms of an guitar electric - with perfect amount of gain - are an especially apposite accompaniment for the song. What's more, both the bridge and solo (guitar) offer the necessary contrasting elements to the song; the former gifting us with an uplifting sequence of harmonies; the latter showcasing a sizzling guitar solo (again, with just the right amount of vibrato that seems to echo Craven's vocal-work elsewhere so well.) In short, this is a track that demonstrate Craven's capabilities for keeping a listener hooked in.

It is both Craven's musical talent on display here, plus his very personable nature and generosity towards artists within the performance side of the industry, that made him a go-to artist to appear on the Save Bailey Guitars Album.

* Sam Winston - Singer-/Songwriter and helmsman for Save Bailey Guitars Compilation.

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LUCYANN TWEET: Thankyou for making Awesome music! Can't wait to hear what's next ! 🎤🤘🏻🎸

* <https://twitter.com/Loulouann1234> - 12:55 PM - 19 Aug 2016

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BROKEN BUTTERFLY TWEET: lovely voice 😀 shame about the weather lol 😮☔️

* [https://twitter.com/BlueButterflyuk 20th August 2016](https://twitter.com/BlueButterflyuk%2020th%20August%202016)

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RUNNING ON EMPTEE SOUNDBITE: “A gent with a tale to be told, there’s a modern day Shakespeare to music vibe going on with Cravens offerings. I’ve had “Beneath The Burning Moon” on replay. Definitely not , much ado about nothing, you’ll want to pin your ears back for what can only be described as a Midsummer nights dream”

* Runnin’on Emptee soundbite. – Watford Observer columnist. Jan 9th 2017.

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RUNNING ON EMPTEE ARTICLE: “Next up on Eargasm & no stranger to the Column is man of many talents Tom Craven, the singer/songwriter has a release coming up on the 1st February with "Magpie" followed by the video on 14th February.

I've been privvy to a preview and there's a plethora of talent involved including Lauren Merrifield of Caution Horses/Faeries, Singer/Songwriter Sophie Ray & Joshua Saunders from Tom’s own band The Chapter & cover art by Jonny Fox also from The Caution Horses. It's a collaboration that works extremely well in all areas and is sure to please his present following while also attracting a new audience & maybe evoke more toonage from this talented posse?

After listening to Toms last EP "In Rivers" there's no mistaking him as a gent with a tale to be told. There’s a modern day ‘Shakespeare to music’ vibe going on with Cravens offerings. I’ve had “Beneath The Burning Moon” on replay. It’s definitely not much ado about nothing - you’ll want to pin your ears back for what can only be described as a midsummer night’s dream"

* Date TBC

“I first came across Tom Craven via a random Facebook link that took me to a video story about his ‘10 Years of Chances’ project in 2014 and this piqued my interest, so I decided I needed to meet this good looking young man and find out more about his music. The rest as they say is history! I have been a big supporter of Tom & his music ever since.

‘Magpie’ has always been one of my favourite tracks (His Mum agrees with me!) but this newly recorded mix with Sophie Ray on piano & Lauren Merrifield on second vocals is just superb. It’s the kind of song I just want to stroke…which probably doesn’t make any sense unless you like dogs or cats. Maybe I should explain - that calming pleasurable feeling you get when cozied up with your pet or loved one. Still sounds odd but hey ho. I stick by it!”

Denise Parsons the ‘Queen of Local Music’

The Parsons Knows Local Music - Radio Verulam

CEO PK Promotions

10th January 2017

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Magpie by Tom Craven

There are many reasons for making the jump from playing in your front room to playing on stage; for some it’s for fame, others the things fame brings, some a cry for attention, and some for the pure enjoyment of entertaining others.

Tom Craven definitely falls in the last category. A musician with a true work ethic, not only has he for over the last decade honed a live set of well-crafted songs, he has helped arrange local concerts (which I have had the pleasure of working with him as his sound engineer), found himself on stage acting, inspired local artists in their work and pushed his own promotion, Papermouth, to show case local talents as well as arrange gigs bringing performers from Europe such as Blow and Merel.

2016 saw Tom take a hiatus from his own performances and mainly drive these events, but 2017 has brought him back to doing what he does best, performing live.

He has a distinctive voice and easy persona that wins him over with audiences, and is as approachable off stage as well as on, always willing to speak to those who’ve come to see him before or after his act, and encourage those performing with him.

And, after several albums of his own work released, he has pushed forwards a tune that has been worked on for the last year and now due for release in Magpie. It’s the culmination of a decade of writing, finding what works whilst staying true to his nature, teaming up with his friends in music Sophie Ray on piano, Joshua Saunders on bass and the excellent Lauren Merrifeld on dual lead vocals. Its light natured tune challenges anyone not to feel happy when listening to it, with well written lyrics (although I’m still at a loss to think who unleashed Toby Keith) it just speaks of feel good.

And after a dire 2016 and the insanity the start of 2017 has brought upon us, maybe what we all need is just a bit of feel good.

* Mike Camp – Musician, Sound Engineer and Event Coordinator at The Music Room
* 30th January 2017

“At first the cover of the ‘In Rivers’ vinyl did scare me a bit (But our dear friend Tom explained it all so I’ve now looked passed it) however when I put it on for the first time, I was hugely surprised due to my initial feelings about the cover. I personally love listening to the EP when I’m feeling a bit run off my feet and need a slither of calm. I feel it’s a very emotionally driven album - you feel it in all of the amazing layers of acoustic guitar and through the lyrics that do make you stop and listen. Everything about this EP is raw and exposed - Pure guitar, pure percussion and pure melody in Tom’s voice.

A proper winner for chilled vibes”

* Cara Brown @ The LP Café, Watford
* 27th January 2017

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“[On the upcoming 'LETTER/DIARY' album] The album is an excellent example of diversity in music and human emotion. It shows both Tom's ability as a great songwriter as well as a great level of musicianship from all involved in the creation of the album.”

- Lucas Robert-Williamson, *The 'LETTER/DIARY' Fiasco*

"MOR Folkish-Indie"

- [*Time Out* (Jul 25, 2011)](http://www.timeout.com/london/music/event/233270/tom-craven-and-the-chapter-the-superficial-sam-pickett-dan-hoyes)

“Watford's Acoustic Posterboy”

- Unknown, *Gig Listings* (May 07, 2010)

“There’s something about Tom’s songs that’s telling you, constantly, that he urgently wants you to understand and to share, to experience the overwhelming emotions that he and his songs are experiencing.”

- [Jamie Smith, *Bananatown.co.uk*](http://www.bananatown.co.uk/category/music-news/band-updates/tom-craven/)

“Charming and beautiful, Tom has a resolute integration between his music and his personality. Both warm and secure, his confidence is infectious and the audience nearly doubles in size during Tom’s set. His music has subtle elements towards indie and folk, but his real strength lies in his storytelling and confidence/presence on stage.”

- [Dan O'Shea, *15 Minute Club - Review* (Jul 28, 2010)](http://blogs.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=blog.view&friendId=212276980&blogId=537607763)

“Aside from the crisp, clear melancholy in his voice and that lush collection of songs, it’s that direct emotional immediacy that Tom puts in to his live performances that brings us back to watch him over and over.”

- [Jamie Smith, *Bananatown.co.uk*](http://www.bananatown.co.uk/category/music-news/band-updates/tom-craven/)

“Tom is a talented performer, who has the ability to combine acoustics and rock in a unique way; creating a perfect blend of music for all ages. ”

- [Clive Fennell - Entertainment Manager Rickmansworth festival, *rwt.org.uk*](http://www.reverbnation.com/control_room/artist/346285/www.rwt.org.uk)

“[On 'Unseen Angel'] "a bold, enigmatic collection of songs from a heartfelt and ultimately honest talent”

- Glen Thirsk, *Fan*

“[On his band 'Tom Craven & The Chapter'] Tom's poured his heart and soul into this project, and rightly so - good to hear one of our brightest talents finally working with a band as sympathetic to his material as this one”

- [Pete Curtis, *Oxygen @ The Horns*](http://www.facebook.com/search/?flt=1&q=the+horns&o=4&sid=cqclYsiYpe-BufKXWrlF3w.963271237..1&s=10#!/event.php?eid=119059568127424&ref=mf)

“Tom has an intense emotion to his vocals and most impressively provided a gutsy, strikingly powerful and original version of Alanis Morissette’s Ironic; a rare feat for a male indie acoustic performer.”

- Serena Lindsay, *Flea Magazine*

“He has the talent, now he just needs the audacity and the will to succeed”

- [Terry Lee, *Terry Lee Photography*](http://www.gigphotographer.com/2009/05/17/rickmansworth-festival-tom-craven/)

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“Tom’s soulful acoustic sound translates beautifully into both his powerful ballads and upbeat melodic tracks. Catchy songs about life, love and everything in between mean that this talented young musician is definitely one to watch.”

- [*Watford Observer* (May 07, 2009)](http://www.watfordobserver.co.uk/leisure/localexhibitions/4350553.Spitfires_and_up_and_coming_bands_set_to_entertain_at_the_Rickmansworth_Festival/)

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“Acoustic guitarist Tom Craven is gradually making his mark, now with dates over the pond in America under his belt and a brand new album on the way.”

- [Russell Carpenter, *Optima*](http://www.optimamagazine.co.uk/read/leisure/places-to-go/193-tom-craven-in-the-spotlight)

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“[About 'I Fell For You'] Perfect in its simplicity in a lovesong that is surely one of the best of its kind”

- [Jamie Smith, *Bananatown.co.uk*](http://www.reverbnation.com/control_room/artist/346285/bananatown.co.uk)

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"Tom's certainly been making waves on the solo scene in recent years"

- Martin Booth, *Watford Observer, Leisure Review* (Aug 10, 2006)

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"The bastard lovechild of Goo Goo Dolls, Damien Rice & Tom McRae"

- Alex Mead, *Immoral*

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"Raw, emotive, acoustic music...with balls!"

- Lee Sparkes, *Monkeyboy Promotions*

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"I Think ’Raw, emotive, acoustic music…with class’ is more suited to this gem of a songwriter"

- Luke Bailey, *Gigstation Review*

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“[On Tom's Music] "Well, it simply grabs you by your soul-bollocks and doesn't let go!"”