

# Sacha Skarbek



**What was the first record that really excited you?**

Aged 8, John Ogdon's performance of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto in D minor. (I was brought up only on classical music!). I used to play along with it in the back of the car, get over-excited and then get car-sick.

**If you weren't a songwriter, what other career might you have pursued?**

Ski bum, smelly climber or rock star!

**Were you surprised by the huge success of *You're Beautiful*?**

What do you think...! Even more so, as written when James had no management, record or publishing deal.

**You're a keen climber, what is the most exhilarating/petrifying experience you've had on a mountain?**

Climbing in New Zealand, my knot attaching me to my harness came loose and left me exposed on a cliff face, staring down at a couple of thousand foot drop... lost my suntan immediately. Climbing El Principal in Patagonia this January was unbelievably exhilarating... made sure my knots were good this time!

**Which do you find most challenging, writing melodies or writing lyrics?**

For me lyrics... I have complete admiration for writers who are able to tell stories and touch emotions through lyrics. Melodies I find a more natural part of writing. I write a lot in Nashville, where lyrics are paramount and it's always a great experience and lesson in the core simple and honest values of a song.

**You ran the London Marathon this year; how was it?**

If you see someone hobbling around in discomfort at the Ivors... that will be me... please don't touch my legs.

**If there was someone living or dead you could write a song with, who would it be?**

Bernie Taupin, Prince, Elvis Costello, Neil Young, Roy Orbison... list goes on.

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time?**

I love working with and developing new artists, I am fortunate enough to have a fantastic set up at Kensaltown Studios, where like minded producers such as Martin Terefe work from. Establishing high quality acts and music in an experienced creative environment, that doesn't succumb to the pressures of too many outside influences, is in my view key to the survival of music... Therefore in 10 years' time... 10 Kensaltown's... with scores of artists being able to make great music. And of course one in the mountains...

