

Songs of the Cosmos is kind of a concept album based on the ideas in some of my books - I'm also a science writer, so I write about things like where the universe came from, and where we fit into the big picture. It was great taking this stuff and trying to make it work in a totally new medium.

Nine of the 11 tunes on the album are original, written by myself and arranged by Mirosław Hodun, a good friend and amazing musical talent (he represented Poland in the Eurovision Song Contest a few years' back, but don't hold that against him!). Mirek also produced the album and plays keyboards and various other instruments on it. We also brought in a number of other great musicians from the Dundee area, where I live: Simon Kennedy (electric and acoustic guitar), Scott Donald (drums), Fraser Adam (bass), and Julie Cleave, my voice coach (backing vocals).

So now the plan is to put together a band, probably including some of these guys, to gig the album over the coming months.

I'd always played a bit of guitar but never did anything serious with music until about five years ago when I got into singing. Being a writer and a fairly creative soul, I started songwriting about the same time and the tunes just naturally grew out of what I wrote about in my books.

Musically, my main influences are the progressive and psychedelic rock bands I grew up with -- the likes of Floyd, King Crimson, and Moody Blues. Also, those bands incorporate a lot of "cosmic" ideas into their lyrics and sounds, so that ties in with my geeky side.

Having said that, the album is a real mixture of genres - prog rock, pop-rock, acoustic, and so on. As well as the original nine tracks, there are two covers: Epitaph, from Crimson's *In the Court of the Crimson King*, and *Rain* by US singer/songwriter Jon Heintz.

The whole album took about a year to write, arrange, rehearse and record. Most of the recording was done at Seagate Studio in Dundee, with sound engineering by Graeme Watt.

Next up will be live performances of the album and other tunes, including more original material. We'll be taking it to festivals and organising tours both within the UK and abroad.

Websites: Songs of the Cosmos, www.songsofthecosmos.com
The Worlds of David Darling, www.daviddarling.info