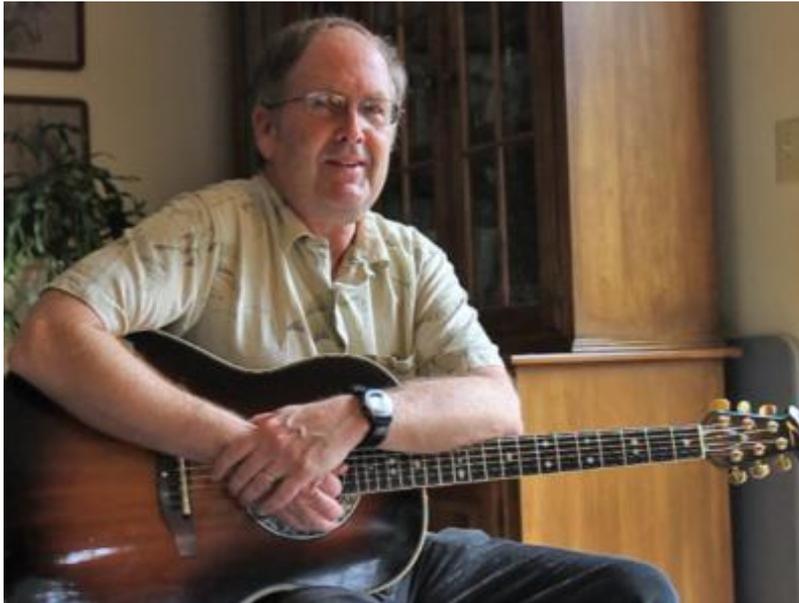


Performer Spotlight: Acoustic Guitarist/Marine Biologist Brian Kelly

MAY 17, 2012 | BY [DREW](#)

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With over 10,000 members, entertainers of all kinds from all walks of life, GigMasters truly is a digital melting pot. Many of our members are full-time entertainers while others hold down day jobs, moonlighting as performers on nights and weekends. A few of us GigMasters staffers do the same!

We're always looking to learn more about our members, so when 5-star acoustic guitarist [Brian Kelly](#) (Sandwich, MA) told us his unique story, we had to share it with you...

By day Brian Kelly is a marine biologist, working to protect Cape Cod's famously picturesque shores. At night (and on weekends) Brian performs around the Cape for locals and tourists alike.

As part of his day job, Brian works alongside Cape Cod's professional fishermen as they fish for lobster, squid, fluke, whiting, and dogfish shark. Brian told us that once he gets to talking "these guys are amazed that a biologist can double as a musician! They get the biggest kick out of that fact, so that next time I go out with them, they ask if I'd had any unusual gigs recently (and I always do!)."

Brian estimates that these days he plays around 75 gigs a year. While that's up from a few years ago when the recession was at its peak and tourism had bottomed out, it's down from his younger days when he was playing 120 + shows annually.

Music is Brian's true passion and he's looking forward to the day when he can focus all of his energy into it. "I hope to retire in three to four years after 38 years of state service." His retirement plan: more gigging.

"I've progressed through the years from bands to duos to mostly solo. I'm now transitioning myself into playing pure Americana acoustic music in duos and trios, which will be my retirement "gig."

As I'm sure everyone can appreciate, Brian also explained that he's "looking forward to retirement" especially because it will allow him "to afford to get into music even more."

Brian's retirement goals include learning the dobro and banjo. And a whole lot more gigging.

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Check out [Brian Kelly](#) on GigMasters and if you are ever on the Cape, go say hi!

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