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## About Me:

Phoenix Imago may not be my real name, but it describes me better than anything my parents could have guessed at when I was born. From the ashes of a very different life, the performer I always wanted to be has arisen. Impressive on so many instruments, supreme on piano and vocals; and then there's the songs... They have chronicled my life, learning and healing. I don't just play my songs. I *\*live\** them, I *\*am\** them.

It's very hard to classify your music when you've spent so many years striving to encompass all possible styles and approaches. The influences you've heard of: Stevie Wonder, Sting, Prince, Jamiroquai, perhaps Jeff Buckley. Less well known but no less important: Lewis Taylor, Weather Report, Mindy Smith, Regina Spektor, Dhafer Youssef.

I am 31 years old. I've been playing guitar and piano longer than I can remember. I had some natural talent but I had a yearning to go beyond it, both as a writer and a performer. I lived in Kent and London throughout my childhood and 20s but I now live most of the time near Florence in Italy. It's warm there, the people are friendly and I like the fruit.



Besides being an obsessively ambitious and perfectionist musician I love running, yoga (I used to teach...) and eat a raw vegan diet. My original career was in computing and I've taken from it an enthusiasm for all things Linux. I love watching Formula 1 racing & Babylon 5, V for Vendetta (the comic, not the film...), Watchmen (comic & film), Dragonball Z and too many Sci-fi novels to mention. I'm an unashamed left-winger who cares about the environment, people and animals. I'll tend to fight for causes that don't fight for themselves because I understand karma and I know that we always get bitten back for our sins eventually.

## Discography:

### Dec 2009/Feb 2010 – Change the World

So I set myself a challenge – write and record one song a week. If possible, keep it up for an

entire year. Not hard enough? How about making each song an embodiment of a cause? How about making each song a focal point for positive change in the world? I touched on conservation, animal rights, open source software, food, money...

I managed two months and eight recordings. It wasn't so much the writing – more the rehearsal and recording that beat me in the end. Also to research a topic thoroughly enough to write about it takes more than a few days, especially when you're trying to live a life along side it. Looking back on it, although I was disappointed to stop, I'm immensely proud of the songs. They are funny, passionate, exciting and often achingly beautiful. I'm also proud of what I learnt about the about the causes I wrote about. I have a far clearer, better conception of what I care about in the world now.

Tracks:

- 1) I Belong – All about living in the moment.
- 2) Last Human – A plea for humility from us humans with regard to the earth.
- 3) Christmas – A Christmas song!
- 4) Pigs – A song about the terrible conditions that farmed pigs are kept in. It's from the pigs' perspective...
- 5) The Free Software Song - A cover of Richard Stallman's free software song which is it self written from the melody of a folk song.
- 6) Rather Die – A song about animal testing for medical research.
- 7) Money – An attempt to put money into perspective.
- 8) Food – An attempt to put food into perspective.

### **April 2010 – Respect Single**

Track 1) 'Respect': In 2007 I was inspired by a 'Stop the War Coalition' protest rally to write a love poem to the marching protester. Although the breathtaking lyric was penned in only two days, 'Respect' eventually demanded over two months of full time work to record. A multi-instrumentalist 'tour-de-force' (Most of the parts were recorded in one take. The vocals and lead guitar were recorded simultaneously.) it taught me how to put together the sound of a full-scale nine piece band with just one pair of hands. My gift to those who care about 'something bigger than themselves' has given me a blueprint to record an album.

Track 2) 'Hard to Love Me': provides a simple beautiful counter-point to Respect's full on complexity. It describes the effect that such an involved project can have on the rest of your life.

Track 3) 'Prince': This poem also speaks of the dangers of setting your sights on some notion of perfection. And yes... ..it really was based partly on the character 'Vegeta' from the cartoon 'Dragonball Z'.