

Biography

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## CHRIS DE BURGH

**"I**t's all a question of honesty," says Chris De Burgh. "I like to think that what people see behind my music is someone who is sincere and honest. The songs that I write and record are out of the mainstream; I'm rowing my own particular boat, and I'm moving in the only direction I know."

Through the years, Chris De Burgh has steered a course that is straight and true. Here is an artist with a rare ability to tell stories with his songs, to combine musical and lyrical nuances into one seamless whole that sets De Burgh apart. And with *Into The Light*, his eighth album for A&M, he has once again created an emotional, imaginative sound that is readily identifiable to audiences of many different cultures, languages and ages.

De Burgh has certainly had an unusual and fascinating life from which to draw his inspiration. He was born in Argentina to British parents. His father's position in the British diplomatic corps moved the family to Malta, Nigeria, Zaire and finally Ireland, where his parents bought a 12th Century Norman castle and converted it into a hotel. Chris learned to play guitar there, often entertaining the hotel guests, but his musical career was put on hold while he pursued degrees in French and English at Trinity College in Dublin.

"I discovered that there is very little you can do with an arts degree, short of becoming a bank manager," De Burgh said later. "A friend eventually offered me a job singing in his restaurant, and I managed to make off with two pounds a week and a hamburger per night." The situation soon improved. Within two years, Chris was offered a publishing contract, and in 1974 he signed with A&M as a recording artist.

De Burgh's first single, "Flying" (from his first album, *Far Beyond These Castle Walls*), went to Number One in Brazil and firmly planted itself there for 17 straight weeks. His second album, *Spanish Train* (1977), went gold and platinum in Canada; a later compilation album, *Best Moves*, went to the top of several European charts, in the process helping to keep his other albums in the Top 30 as well. A pattern was established: Chris De Burgh became an artist with a following as internationally varied as his own background.

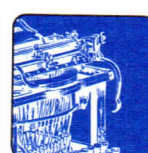
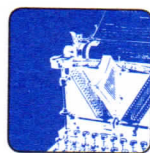
That pattern has continued through De Burgh's concert tours (he is a top draw in Europe, England and Canada) and recent albums. *The Getaway* (1983) marked a breakthrough in the United States; the album's first single, "Don't Pay the Ferryman," quickly became his biggest hit here to date, with an accompanying video which enjoyed heavy rotation on MTV and other outlets.

De Burgh's last album, *Man On The Line* (1984), was his second consecutive collaboration with producer Rupert Hine (the Fixx, Robert Palmer, Saga). The album's chart performance speaks eloquently of Chris' international appeal: *Man On The Line* went double platinum in Ireland and Switzerland, platinum in Canada, Germany and Norway, and gold in several countries, including England, Belgium, Holland and France; "High On Emotion," the single from the LP, was Top Ten throughout Europe and England and reached Top 40 in the U.S.

*Into The Light*, De Burgh's first album since the birth of his daughter, reflects the influence of that profound experience on both his life and his craft. Produced by Paul Hardiman, the album includes 12 new De Burgh songs, including "For Rosanna," an exquisite ballad for voice and piano; "Fire on the Water," a tale of forbidden romance; "Say Goodbye to It All," a rejection of war; and "The Spirit of Man," an affirmation of human strength and love. Chris has described *Into The Light* as "a debt of gratitude" from the artist to his fans.

*Into The Light* also reveals an artist who, as always, is as much an aural filmmaker as a singer and songwriter. "I see everything very clearly," he says, "and I tend to view my songs in a very cinematic way, like

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movies for the ears. I allow my mind to run riot with images; and the great part is trying to convey that sense of imagery to the listener.

"The most crucial factor has always been the song," De Burgh adds. "It doesn't matter what you look like, or what your image is. These days, we have the technology, like synthesizers and drum machines, that makes you sound like you can write a song, but the fact is that when you strip it all away, the song is still the key to communication." With *Into The Light*, Chris De Burgh has once again revealed that he is a communicator *par excellence*.