

## *Cruising World* - Kitty Martin

TUNES: HE MAKES HIS MUSIC ON THE WATER

Many cruisers carry CD players on board, and there's a good chance that some of them have Jimmy Buffett in heavy rotation. But you might want to make room for Mike Aiken, another salty troubadour.

Aiken developed a taste for music and a restless urge to travel while young. When he discovered sailing, he found the perfect vehicle through which to combine his two passions. He voyaged to Portugal, Spain, and the Caribbean, performing along the way and releasing two CDs.

Now based in Norfolk, Virginia, Aiken and his wife and musical collaborator, Amy, live aboard *Island Girl*, a 42-foot cutter. He continues to perform and has released his third CD, *Just Add Salt*, which, like all of Aiken's CDs, was recorded on *The Bay Queen*, a retired 80-foot Navy tugboat, vintage 1941, that the couple converted into a sound studio.

*Just Add Salt* came out in early 2007 on Northwind/Aspirion Records and has won airtime on thousands of country stations, though you can't pigeonhole Aiken that easily. Besides the country touches, you can hear folk, roots, calypso, and some sea-chantey notes. Even the two cover tunes, the Grateful Dead's "Friend of the Devil" and Lyle Lovett's "If I Had A Boat," though very faithful renditions, have a unique sound.

So mix a few sundowners – margaritas would be appropriate-and just add salt. For details, visit his website ([www.mikeaikenmusic.com](http://www.mikeaikenmusic.com)).

K.M. – December 2007