

# KENNETH WILSON CELLO – PRESS KIT



## BIOGRAPHY

Kenneth Wilson is a poet, a cellist and a dreamer. He is also an ex-vicar, failed property developer and reformed vegetarian who once ran an India travel company. He lives in a treehouse in rural Cumbria, where he plants trees and swims in a cold lake.

Now, as *Highway Cello*, he plays a wide variety of foot-tapping, tear-jerking – and just plain sexy – music. The cello is abetted – sometimes subverted – by an arresting and acid poetical commentary.

Depending on the mood you might hear ancient Irish laments, James Bond, and croaking frogs; or cardinal sins, and sinning cardinals; wet dreams, and uprisings against the English; slow boats and tango. Even a retelling of ancient Greek tragedy with a modern twist.

Kenneth Wilson plays the cello with a moving and sonorous passion. His poetry is funny and incisive and memorable.

## DISCOGRAPHY AND PUBLICATIONS

Kenneth is the author of *Highway Cello* (City Village Books, March 2023), *Orange Dust: Journeys after the Buddha* (Blissfool Books, 2011) and a book of poetry, *The Definitions of Kitchen Verbs* (Ravenbridge Books, 2019).

There is a *Highway Cello* album of solo cello music to accompany the *Highway Cello* book. The album runs to 16 tracks of “gentle music for the road”, including Irish troubadour airs, solemn songs of political resistance, and cello classics like “The Swan”.

[LISTEN](#) to Highway Cello tracks here. [WATCH](#) video here. [LISTEN](#) to poetry here.

## HIGHWAY CELLO TOUR

In the summer of 2022 Kenneth Wilson strapped his carbon fibre cello to the back of his fifty-year-old Dawes Galaxy bicycle, and cycled the old Roman routes from Hadrian's Wall down to Rome. Actually "down" isn't really the right word. There are Pennines, and Dales, and Alps and Apennines in the way, and he climbed in total more than three Everests.

He performed every day on the way – formal concerts and pop-ups, busking and a variety of responses to the events and people of the journey.

He played in churches and town halls, in homes and offices, restaurants and balconies and street corners. From Canterbury Cathedral to the lawns of the Leaning Tower of Pisa; from a silent war cemetery in the Haute Somme to the highest motorable road over the Alps; from a little bridge over the Marne Canal to St. Peter's Square in Rome.

Kenneth's journey was featured on the BBC and ITV in the UK, and in the press in France, Italy, Russia and Canada.

## **INTERVIEWS, TALKS AND PERFORMANCES**

Kenneth Wilson is available for interviews, and to give illustrated talks, and performances of music and poetry. Contact details below.

## **PHOTOS**

Hi-res photos can be found on the Press page on <https://kennethwilsoncello.com>

## **COMMENT**

*"A truly mellow cello fellow."* Steven Isserlis, CBE, cellist, Gramophone Hall of Fame, author.

*"A wry perspective, an edge to his bow. Arresting."* – The Cumberland and Westmorland Herald.

*"An amazing performance, great poetry. Powerful stuff"* – Richard Farncombe, Music in the Wood.

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

email: [kennethwilsoncello@gmail.com](mailto:kennethwilsoncello@gmail.com)

phone: +44 (0)7968 379919

web: <https://kennethwilsoncello.com>

Instagram: @kennethwilsoncello

YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfpo5Tq\\_gQQlhk3Qjznwt9g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfpo5Tq_gQQlhk3Qjznwt9g)