

John Permenter...



“Texas Fiddle Man”

When asked the essential ingredients of a pure, traditional Country song, few would deny the importance of a crying country fiddle. Thus, it is always a pleasure for fans to hear somebody who has a true mastery of the instrument. Fans throughout the UK and Ireland will then, no doubt, love John Permenter, who as well as being a tremendous fiddle player, also has great vocal skills. Whilst John is originally from Texas, he is now based

in the UK, devoting the wealth of his time to entertaining European Country fans.

John attributes his love of music, first and foremost to his father, who grew up deep in east Texas. Whilst Nashville is usually credited as the Country music capital of the world, Texas, and in particular east Texas owes a lot to the development of Country music, and in particular, the Western Swing style. Groups such as Bob Wills and the Texas playboys pioneered the sound of the fiddle in the many ballrooms throughout the state. It is no surprise then, that John Permenter continues this tradition today, bringing the sound of the Western Swing fiddle to audiences around the world.

John became involved in music full time in 1977, after having worked in construction for a number of years. He recalls hearing Johnny Paycheck on the radio, singing ‘Take This Job And Shove It’, giving him the inspiration to fulfill his musical ambitions. For a number of years, he toured with Johnny Bush, writer of ‘Whiskey River’, playing the honky-tonks and ballrooms throughout the Lone Star state.

After leaving the Johnny Bush band, John started singing at Gilley’s nightclub in Pasadena. The club, famed by the 1980 movie ‘Urban Cowboy’ often attracted tourists from Europe, and it is here that John first realised the knowledge and respect that European fans have for pure, traditional country music. Over the next number of years, John would play behind Country music greats such as Clint Black and Moe Bandy, as well as appearing many times

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in Branson, Missouri, where again, he met many Europeans with a deep respect for pure country music. He made his first solo recording in 1995. Having built up a number of contacts through years of performing live, John's first two albums 'Everybody's Gotta Run Their Own Railroad' and 'Wayfaring Stranger' feature some of the top musicians in Country music history. His third album, 'Roots: The Songs My Father Loved' also featured top musicians, and brought together classic songs by the likes of Hank Williams, Tennessee Ernie Ford and Johnny Horton, recorded in a traditional style, often in a single take, with little editing and dubbing.

In 1999, John realised his ambition to travel abroad, particularly to Europe, to perform in front of the many fans he had met as tourists, thus far. His travels took him first to England, Ireland and Scotland, before moving onto the Netherlands, Scandinavia, France, Germany and Brazil. He would go onto appear at some of the biggest festivals in the UK, and has various bands in different countries that tour with him whenever he performs in their country. His fourth album was a live album featuring his band in Holland, Desporado, capturing the excitement and spontaneity of a live gig.

John now lives in Bedfordshire in the UK, and is married to an English woman. Whilst continuing his music career, he also studied a degree in Humanities, and teaches part-time, when taking a break from touring. With fans across Europe, its fair to say that John is the true ambassador of Texas Country music, and a must-see for any pure, traditional Country fan.

