



MICHAEL JOHNSON

BIOGRAPHY



Michael Johnson has performed and lived many styles of music.

If you wish, his voice will immediately identify him as the man who sings "Bluer Than Blue", "Give Me Wings", "That's That", "This Night Won't Last Forever" and other landmark songs. But more than all of that, his music shows a diversity, depth and heart that only come from years of dedication to a labor of love.

"Tell them that I love it." He started playing at age thirteen and just never quit. Singing, playing, writing and recording are the *only* things he's ever done and he loves it.

"Tell them I play guitar." He really plays guitar. He studied in Barcelona and he plays on all his records with a unique and distinctive style. His playing is an important part of his show.

"I am a soloist at heart and I've always been an acoustic singer/songwriter." Michael often performs alone, and he has elevated the art. He prefers the intimacy and spontaneity of a performance that can change with the moment.

"Tell them I'm a showman and a bit of a ham. I like to talk to people and I love to make them laugh. And, of course, I have to move them with the music. Without that, there is no reason to be on stage."

What one remembers of Michael is the texture of his voice, the meaning of the lyric and the music of the guitar - singer, song and sound. And the feeling of being at home with a friend.

"A dazzling guitarist and wonderfully expressive singer. No two shows are alike."

Billboard Magazine

". . .a masterful guitarist who can pull off some amazing stunts with such incredible nonchalance that he doesn't seem quite human."

Bruce Viland, Chicago Daily Tribune

"Michael Johnson is one of the greatest and most sensitive guitar players I know. His singing is warm and captivating and his songs are the best."

Amy Kurland, Bluebird Cafe, Nashville, TN

"I doubt if any concert performer works an audience better or cherishes the power of a well placed wisecrack more than Johnson does."

Rick Shefchik, News Tribune, Duluth MN

"Only seeing him in person will convince you that he actually DOES all those things you're hearing."

Eliot Wald, The Daily Planet, Chicago

". . .Johnson's so-cool approach to vocals and cerebral approach to lyrics are a welcome balance to the overwrought delivery of so many artists."

Billboard Magazine, New York

"The long awaited return of master singer songwriter/guitarist Michael Johnson. . .is surely one of the year's most highly anticipated and overdue projects. . .a true cause for celebration."

Music City News, Nashville TN

"One of our smoothest balladeers demonstrates he still has the masters touch. . ., soft, intricate vocals. . .elegant production."

Billboard Magazine

Born in Alamosa, Colorado - grew up in Denver

- 1964** Won an international folk singing contest First prize was a record deal from Epic Records. *"I sold 23 copies and I still know where 13 of them are. They sent me a royalty check for 11 cents, which I have framed."*
- 1966** Studied classical guitar in Barcelona with eminent guitarist Graciano Tarrago.
- 1967** Lived in a garage in Bel Air with Steve Martin and Gary Mule Deer. Toured the Orient with Randy Sparks and The New Society.
- 1968** Joined the Chad Mitchell Trio and toured for a year.
- 1969** Acted in New York off Broadway and the toured for a year with the company of "Jacques Brel Is Alive And Well And Living In Paris".
- 1970** Signed with Atlantic Records
- 1975** Started his own (successful) record label, Sanskrit Recods
- 1978-80** Signed with EMI America Records and released "Bluer Than Blue", "Almost Like Being In Love", and "This Night Won't Last Forever".
- 1985-88** Signed with RCA Records and released hit songs, "Give Me Wings", "The Moon Is Still Over Her Shoulder", "That's That", and "I Will Whisper Your Name".
- 1990** Signed with Atlantic Records again. *"Didn't recognize anybody"*
- 1995** Signed with Vanguard Records.
- 1997** Signed with Intersound Records. Released his fourteenth album, including "Whenever I Call You Friend, a duet with Alison Krauss.

There Is A Breeze

Atlantic Records, re-released on Sanskrit Records and EMI America, 1981

For All You Mad Musicians

Sanskrit Records, re-released on EMI America, 1982

Ain't Dis Da Life

Sanskrit Records, re-released on EMI America, 1982

The Michael Johnson Album

EMI America, 1978 --Includes the hit singles: "Bluer Than Blue" and "Almost Like Being In Love".

Dialogue

EMI America 1979 --Includes the hit singles: "This Night Won't Last Forever" and "I'll Always Love You".

You Can Call Me Blue

EMI America, 1980

Home Free

EMI America, 1981

Lifetime Guarantee

EMI America, 1983

I Love You By Heart

RCA, 1985 hit single - duet with Sylvia

Wings

RCA, 1986 - Includes the hit singles: "Gotta Learn To Love Without You", "Give Me Wings" (#1 country song and Billboard Country Song Of The Year 1986) and "The Moon Is Still Over Her Shoulder" (#1 Country song, 1986)

That's That

RCA 1988 - Includes hit singles: "Cryin Shame", "I Will Whisper Your Name" and "That's That"

The Best Of Michael Johnson

RCA, 1989

Michael Johnson

Atlantic Records, 1992

Departure

Vanguard Records, 1995

Then And Now

Intersound Records, 1997 with "Whenever I Call You Friend", with Alison Krauss.

Michael Johnson – Live From The Bluebird Cafe

American Originals Records, 2000

**The Tonight Show with Jay Leno
Nashville Now
Music City Tonight
Entertainment Tonight
The American Music Shop
The Texas Connection
Austin City Limits
CMA Awards shows
ACM Awards shows**

TOURING

Michael's music and concerts have taken him all over the world. He has performed many times in Spain, Japan, Holland, Switzerland, The Philippines, Alaska and elsewhere. He spent 1993 on the road with the Clint Black -Wynona Judd tour. In 1997 he toured with Alison Krauss and Union Station.

He has performed with many symphony orchestras. Among the artists with whom Michael is proudest to have appeared are: Judy Collins, George Carlin, Vince Gil, Roger Miller, Bill Monroe, John McGloughlin, Josh White Sr., Cheryl Wheeler, David Sanborn, Wynona, Trisha Yearwood, Andy Kaufman, Jennifer Warnes and many others.