

JOHN BUNZOW

“John destroys the boundaries between great rock, country, r&b, and soul music by owning his noteworthy sound with respect to the great artists who came before.”

Ray Kennedy, Five time Grammy winner. Producer, Engineer, Musician

(Steve Earle, Billy Joe Shaver)

John Bunzow continues to establish himself as an inspired and innovative American roots singer/songwriter/guitarist of depth, substance and groove.

The Portland, Oregon, native has been called one of the finest roots writers-musicians on the current music scene. Bunzow, now based in Portland with regular commutes to Nashville, has built a long and storied career. Infused early with a strong love of Southern music – thanks to kin from that part of the country – the artist has developed his own unique fusion of roots rock and blues, seasoned with everything from reggae and country rock to pop. He counts among his “Mt. Rushmore of influences,” as he puts it, Bob Dylan, Merle Haggard, Tom Waits, Mike Bloomfield, Albert King, country picker Jimmy Reed, Jimmy Webb, Randy Newman, Steve Earle, and Jerry Garcia, among many.



During his early years, Bunzow performed with bands that favored original music, including the Cowboy Angels and X-Angels, as well as working as a solo singer/songwriter and even trafficking in a country music tour of truck stops and county fairs. The artist found himself bouncing around various music scenes including San Francisco, Seattle and LA. But it was in Nashville that his songwriting created new opportunities, Bunzow says. “My focus was always as a songwriter, and that is what brought me to Nashville – twice.”

Bunzow's second Nashville sojourn resulted in a songwriting deal with EMI and a recording contract with Liberty Records (Capitol Records). His 1996 Pete Anderson-produced CD, *Stories of the Years*, was critically acclaimed by press and radio. Music journalists proclaimed him one of the brightest new talents on music's horizon.

The Gavin Report raved, “John Bunzow is a songwriter's songwriter and could be the catalyst in Nashville's eventual shift out of its hyper-hat mode.”

Following the Liberty Records label release, Bunzow divided his time between playing guitar for alternative country artists including Chris Knight and Allison Moorer, and writing for Famous Music. He has had his songs recorded by the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Patty Loveless, and artist Jack Ingram (produced by Steve Earle/Ray Kennedy) as well as being featured in major motion pictures.

As a performer, Bunzow has played Farm Aid, the Grand Ole Opry, the Ryman Auditorium, and SXSW, and toured throughout Europe, as well as being featured in videos and programming on CMT. He has opened shows for or shared stages with such varied acts as Leon Russell, Gregg Allman, Bruce Cockburn, John Hiatt, Patty Griffin, Kim Richey, Gov't Mule, Steve Earle, Guy Clark, Alvin Youngblood Hart, Iris Dement, Todd Snider, Rodney Crowell, Carl Perkins, Roy Clark, Allison Krauss, Porter Wagoner, Freddy Fender, Ricky Skaggs, Jim Messina, Rodney Foster, Joe Diffie, Trisha Yearwood, Gillian Welch, Willie Nelson, John Mellencamp and Neil Young.

Bunzow also earned a masters degree in education to teach at-risk youth, which he still regularly does, and continues to dive more deeply into his music with an intense discipline of songwriting, performing and recording. He continues to write and perform solo and with his band throughout the Pacific Northwest and contributes his songs and guitar playing to various recording projects. His latest Nashville recording, “Counterfeit Salvation,” is an 11-song reflection of where his life has taken him. He returns to Nashville in October 2019 with the same skilled production team to begin work his next project.

“I am blessed, lucky and very fortunate,” Bunzow says, “to be able to stay very focused on writing, playing and recording. It’s always great to return to Nashville and work with old and new friends. But I am so lucky to play with world-class musicians here in Portland and around the Northwest.”