

# GARY WEST

FOR THE LOVE OF CASH



## B I O G R A P H Y

### DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPH

National touring artist Gary West and his scintillating show “For the Love of Cash,” are like no other. West delivers a dynamic and tantalizing tribute to Johnny Cash and pays homage to such legends of country music as Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, and others. To be clear, Gary West is NOT a Johnny Cash impersonator, though he sounds hauntingly like “the man in black.” West is an ENTERTAINER whose sizzling stage presence has enraptured audiences from coast to coast as one of the top-billing tribute shows in the country today. The industry has taken notice of Gary West – besides being nominated for numerous prestigious awards, his music is frequently requested on top country music radio stations and he is often the subject of media outlets. Once experienced, Gary West and “For the Love of Cash” is sure to strike a chord on the heartstrings of fans of Johnny Cash – and leave a lasting impression on the minds of music lovers everywhere. Visit his website at [www.garywestmusic.com](http://www.garywestmusic.com),



[garywestmusic.com](http://garywestmusic.com)



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## SHORT BIO

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A respected Nashville recording artist, West produces his own music and has additionally produced and/or recorded other artists such as Ken Mellons, Mark Collie, Craig Campbell, and many more. The industry has taken notice of West. Besides being nominated for numerous prestigious awards, including “Tribute Artist of the Year” (2017), “Americana Artist of the Year” (2017), “Entertainer of the Year in the Traditional Category” (2018), and “Song of the Year” (2018) in the Classic Country Category, in 2017, a song he produced for Scotty Ray Morton was awarded “Song of the Year” by The Josie Awards.

Gary West’s music is frequently requested on top country music radio stations and he is often the subject of media outlets. In fact, in 2019, West captured the cover of the global music publication ION Indie Magazine as their July/August featured artist.

West has a unique perspective for the timeless music that he grew up around during his time playing with legendary artists at the Grand Ole Opry. He honed his craft while sitting backstage in Dressing Room #3 at The Opry; watching, learning, and waiting to play the next show. His Nashville journey began in 1988 when he and his band were asked to do a tour with Tommy Cash (brother of Johnny) and back him up for 30 dates that took them through most of Texas. Later that year, Gary played on the Opry stage for the first time with his hero, Grand Ole Opry Star, Del Reeves. Gary continued to work with many great Opry legends over the years, including 12 years with the legendary Little Jimmy Dickens. He additionally toured with Jett Williams and The Drifting Cowboys (Hank Sr.’s original band with Don Helms and Jerry Rivers), The Legendary Drifters, Melba Montgomery, along with backing up many more -- like Johnny Paycheck, Charlie Pride, LuLu Roman, Porter Wagoner, Hank Thompson, and Tommy Cash.

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## LONG BIO

Though he began his life as Gerald Boger Jr., today, he is known as country sensation Gary West – which is a name that was bestowed upon him by the brother of Johnny Cash, Tommy Cash. In 1985, Boger was on tour playing drums for Tommy Cash and Cash advised that he needed a name change if he desired a career in show business. That night, as Cash introduced his band members, he announced, “Gary West on drums!” From that day forward, Gerald Boger took on the new moniker...and Gary West was born!

Gary West began his life on a small farm in Wilkinson, Indiana, a town just 35 miles east of Indianapolis. He grew up with a boyhood love of the music of Johnny Cash. Musical aptitude ran in his family. His mother played the guitar and showed him his first chords. His sister was a trained violinist. They were two of his earliest inspirations. "I started playing the drums when I was very young," said West. "For whatever reason, my parents gave me private lessons when I was like four years old."

His passion began to really develop when he joined a band, The Royal Aces. This led to his first paid gig at a dance – due to the intercession of a beloved science teacher, Darry Hood, who went to bat for the band to perform at the school function. Says West, "I told him that I had a little band and we had a seventh-grade dance coming up. I solicited him to play that dance. He went to the school board and got us the job. I'll never forget it because we made \$125. Somewhere I have a picture of me holding a check that I was really proud about." West sees Hood as a very supportive figure during a time when it was not considered a favorable course of action by the farm community for anyone to seek out a career as a musician.

Graduating from high school in 1983, West continued to play in The Royal Aces for almost 13 years, touring all over the United States and across Canada twice. In 1984, he met Tommy Cash, while playing at the Sheraton Inn in Anderson. Cash had played a show in Anderson and stayed at the hotel where he and West's band met. "So, we got to be friends with Tommy, and we stayed in contact. Several months later, Tommy contacted us and said he needed a band to do a 30-day tour and asked us if we would be interested in backing him up. Of course, we would!" said West. "So, we went on the road with him. We supplied the PA and everything. It was a lot of fun."

After leaving The Royal Aces in 1988, Gary moved to Nashville, TN in a 1963 GMC 4104 tour bus, with everything he pretty much owned in that bus -- and the journey began. Once there, he quickly landed a gig with Grand Ole Opry star, Del Reeves. This was the first of many country music stars and legends from the Grand Ole Opry that West would perform alongside for years to come, including artists such as Jett Williams and Little Jimmy Dickens, whom he worked with for 12 years. He also played with The Drifting Cowboys, Hank Williams Sr.'s original band, which included Don Helms and Jerry Rivers, personal idols of West and many other fans of the country music genre. "I got to tour Germany and Switzerland and Holland with those guys and that was just a treat. They were like country music royalty," West shared.

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West has a unique perspective for the timeless music which he grew up around at the Grand Ole Opry. He honed his craft while sitting backstage in Dressing Room #3 at The Grand Ole Opry; watching, learning, and waiting to play the next show. A lifetime of great musical experiences brings stories, showmanship, music, and memories; a true gift handed down from the amazing pioneers of country music to ones who were there to receive it. There is instilled a sense of passion and duty to carry on the music that is so revered, yet seemingly becoming extinct. Gary strives to keep the tradition alive with a growing and loyal fan base that ranges from longtime classic country fans to a whole new generation who are excited to discover this enduring music for the first time.

Today, national touring artist Gary West has developed a scintillating show, “For the Love of Cash,” that is like no other. West delivers a dynamic and tantalizing tribute to Johnny Cash and pays homage to such legends of country music as Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson. To be clear, Gary West is NOT a Johnny Cash impersonator, though he sounds hauntingly like “the man in black.” West is an ENTERTAINER whose sizzling stage presence has enraptured audiences from coast to coast as one of the top-billing tribute shows in the U.S. today.

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West brings to his growing, devoted fanbase who flock to experience West’s sizzling stage presence, his voracious vocals, and his unique reimagining of classic songs -- as well as his original songs that resound like beloved standards from the very first time you hear them. Backed by a team of “the best of the best” Nashville musicians who have played for dozens of country music legends and Grand Ole Opry stars. Once experienced, Gary West and “For the Love of Cash” is sure to strike a chord on the heartstrings of fans of Johnny Cash – and leave a lasting impression on the minds of music lovers everywhere.

But it perhaps best summed up in the words of Little Jimmy Dickens which are inscribed onto Gary’s Gibson J-200, “This man is hard to follow, hard to follow.”

