

JAIME MICHAELS BIOGRAPHY (long)

There has always been music in Jaime's life, whether it was singing church hymns in Latin, his parents playing the old upright piano in the parlor, or his Uncle Joe teaching him his first chords. When Joe entered the army, he left an old guitar with Jaime, and later started to send Jaime albums by the Kingston Trio, Peter, Paul & Mary and Bob Dylan. Then Jaime discovered the musician who, to this day, remains his all-time musical hero, Boston folkie Tom Rush. Tom was and is a genius at finding songs that speak universally. Jaime listened and learned.

His musical journey began with solo gigs in the coffeehouses of Boston and Cambridge. This was followed by several years as a bass player in the acoustic trio, Beckett, opening shows for Livingston Taylor, Doc Watson, Dave Van Ronk and Jonathan Edwards, among others.

The 80's found Jaime living in the South Carolina low country, spreading his rock and roll wings as lead singer for cult rockers "the Truly Dangerous Swamp Band". He spent eight years with the Swamp Band, crisscrossing the country playing colleges and bars, opening shows for rockers such as Little Feat, Bonnie Raitt, Delbert McClinton and Paul Barrere's Bluesbusters.

In the early 90's, Jaime tired of the rock and roll road life and returned to his first love, acoustic music. In 1997 he moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico where, for the first time in his career, he began to seriously write.

He's recorded ten solo albums so far, each filled with finely crafted songs that showcase his passionate voice and the varied musical influences he's absorbed over the years. His 2011 release, "the man with the time machine" was named Album of the Year by the New Mexico Music Awards. He won the same award in 2014 for his album "unknown blessings".

That recording was released at Jaime's concert at the 2013 Kerrville Folk Festival. The project was made up of primarily cover tunes written by artists with whom Jaime shares a love of the late night song circles at Kerrville. All money from the sale of the album is being donated to the Kerrville Folk Music Foundation for use at their summer Music Camp for Teens. In addition to New Mexico "album of the year", the album also won "song of the year for "dirty wine" (w/Annie Wenz) and producer Jono Manson won the "Norman Petty producer of the year" title.

A new Jono Manson produced album called "once upon a different time" was released in the summer of 2016 both in the US (frumhart/con artisti) and Italy (Appaloosa Records). So far it has spent four months on the American Folk-DJ charts, peaking in the top ten. Several tracks from the album are receiving airplay in the US, Australia, New Zealand and a half dozen European countries. It's being well received by critics around the world.

Most recently he toured in Italy in December 2017 with keyboardist Radoslav Lorcovic. Upcoming dates include a mainstage set at the 2018 Kerrville folk festival, a summer tour in California and a tour in Texas in the fall with fellow singer songwriter Rj Cowdery. He's also hard at work writing tunes for his next release, tentatively titled "carnival town". He will appear next on Appaloosa Records' tribute album to Townes Van Zandt, "The Wind Blows", on the first track, a stellar cover of "Snowing On Raton".

Jaime's travels will continue to take him around the US and occasionally to Europe, playing house concerts, festivals, and arts venues. Just Jaime and his wonderfully worn Taylor guitar. And the songs.

As Mark S. Tucker remarks in his FAME review of Jaime's album, "the man with the time machine", "Michaels watches the side currents of life, not the hurtlingly frantic noise and images...far more the missed opportunities, the mistakes, the wrinkles in the heart. We may be living through the 21st century, but work like his takes us back to a Mayberry that's a lot scruffier around the edges, an indeterminate era when our fantasies about such things danced a little differently."