

MARCH 2020 RELEASE

AAA / Folk / Roots / Americana

MICHAEL JOHNATHON

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MP3 .WAV Download: MichaelJohnathon.com/LegacyCD

"Legacy is the American Pie of the 21st century. It's true, and relevant and well done. A timeless classic." **Ken Cartwright KYAC FM Portland, OR**

"Michael is a terrific story teller and 'Legacy' perfectly captures that. In a time when it has become increasingly more difficult for artists to get their music heard, Michael continues to provide a road map for others to follow."

Jim Monaghan WDHA FM The Rock of New Jersey

"Legacy" is a compilation of a folksinger's life. The song is an epic 9-minute opus, a passionate commentary about the current state of music, a powerful lyric in a commanding melody." **Steve Martin, syndicated UnReal Bluegrass Radio**

"Brilliant and original." **Ed Freeman, producer of America Pie**

- ① Legacy ✓ 8:58
- ② Winter Rose 2:54
- ③ Blue Skies 1:47
- ④ Rain ✓ 3:32
- ⑤ Knockin' On Heaven's Door ✓ 3:38
- ⑥ The Coin 4:44
- ⑦ Loyalty 2:51
- ⑧ The Twinkie Song 2:21
- ⑨ Like A Rolling Stone ✓ 5:38
- ⑩ Woody's Poem 4:24

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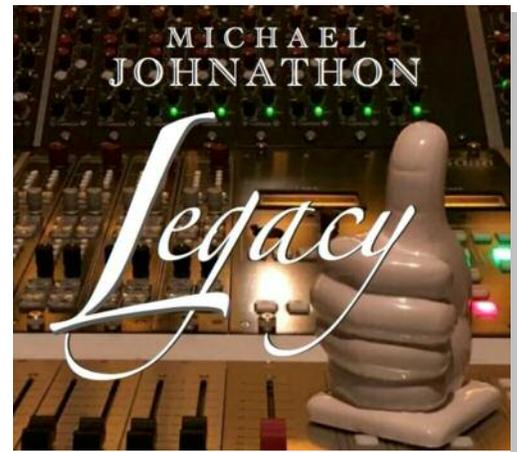
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Nationwide in all major TV markets including LA, Dallas, Chicago, Miami, Atlanta, NYC, Boston

RADIO One Sheet
LEGACY Single Release Feb 2020



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**LEGACY is a "derivative"
an original song, original lyrics,
original chord patterns but recorded in
a way to "remind you" of another song.**

"Legacy is an epic 9-minute masterpiece"

Each verse is a chapter, part of the history of modern music, from **Pete Seeger to Dylan, Bill Monroe to John Denver, Hip Hop to the collapse of the record industry** as we knew it. It is a story of struggle, dreams, believing, hope, aspirations and failure. And victory. It's the story of every artist facing the inevitable truth that things have changed ... and it is getting harder for artists to meet their own audience.

And if you think the song is too long, remember: that is what they said about each song mentioned in the chorus of Legacy :)

The album is a creative journey of original derivatives and classics, from Irving Berlin's "Blue Skies" on the banjo, a complete re-invention of Bob Dylan's "Like A Rolling Stone" to the Ave Maria infused tribute to **Woody Guthrie**



"It's the American Pie for the 21st Century."

Folksinger Michael Johnathon is a touring songwriter, playwright, composer and host of the live audience **WoodSongs Old Time Radio Hour** with a radio and TV audience of over two million fans each week on 500 public radio stations, public TV coast-to-coast, American Forces Radio Network in 177 nations and the RFD-TV Network nationwide

MichaelJohnathon.com/LegacyCD

WoodSongs.com

Michael Johnathon hits hard with LEGACY

ITEM - It's a 9-minute folk rock monster, a journey of the modern age of songwriters in a collapsing record industry. It's being played on rock stations and bluegrass programs, public radio and commercial radio. It's being used in college classes and has even become a parlor game as people study and comment on the lyrics.

And it hasn't even been officially released.

Among the throngs of musicians in the folk world, few have elevated "dreaming" to such a high artform as Michael Johnathon. He is a touring songwriter, author of five published books, playwright of the Walden Play performed in 42 countries, composer of the opera, *Woody: For the People*, organizer of the national association of front porch musicians called SongFarmers, the full symphony performances of *Songs of Rural America* and as the creator and host of the live audience broadcast of the *WoodSongs Old Time Radio Hour* with a radio audience with over two million listeners each week on 500 public radio stations, public television coast-to-coast, American Forces Radio Network in 173 nations and now on the RFD-TV Network nationwide.

Michael Johnathon, indeed, is no ordinary folksinger. And yes, aside from the tsunami of his accomplishments, he is an excellent musician and a brilliant songwriter.

Now comes his 15th studio album, *Legacy* with its massive nine-minute epic about the history of songwriters from Pete Seeger to Bob Dylan, James Taylor to Harry Chapin, the Kingston Trio to Hip Hop and the ultimate collapse of the record industry as we knew it.

"*Legacy*, the song and album, is a concept of what I call derivatives," says Johnathon from his log cabin home in Kentucky. "These are songs that are completely original from lyrics, to chord patterns and melody. But I recorded them specifically to sound like a familiar tune."

Indeed, *Legacy*, the title cut, is reminiscent to Don McLean's *American Pie* but absolutely original in its own right. Not hiding that, Johnathon used the famous "thumbs up" from McLean's classic original album cover to acknowledge that great work. The song *Rain* with its string quartet and descending bass lines reminded this writer of David Gates classic ballad *Aubrey*.

"As far as the song goes, *Legacy* is a tribute to the artists that made the biggest impact on me," says Johnathon. "But even more than that, it is a tribute to the struggle of all artists trying to be heard, trying to get attention, trying to find their audience. The world of music has changed so drastically. No matter how successful we might think we are, we all have a long, long way to go."

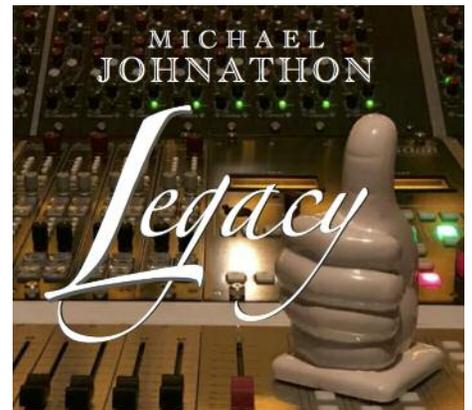
Radio programmers are already jumping on the single, slated for national release February 2020.

"*Legacy* is the American Pie of the 21st century. It's true, relevant and well done. A timeless classic." says Ken Cartwright of KYAC FM in Portland, OR

"*Legacy*' perfectly captures a time when it's become so difficult for artists to get their music heard, Michael continues to provide a road map for others to follow." says Jim Monaghan of WDHA FM "The Rock of New Jersey."

Among the highlights, if not the absolute surprize, is Johnathon's complete banjo reinvention of Irving Berlin's *Blue Skies*, his stunning tribute to Woody Guthrie and his rendition Bob Dylan's monster hit (*Like a*) *Rolling Stone*.

"To me, the meaning of *Rolling Stone* has been reborn in a political sense," he says. "Musically, I didn't want to just cover it. I wanted to treat the song as though I wrote it."



LEGACY words and Music by Michael Johnathon
c2019/Rachel Aubrey Music Inc/BMI

*"Take the inventiveness of Bob Dylan,
the melodic voice of John Denver,
add the showmanship of Garrison Keillor
and that's Michael Johnathon."*

Bob Spear, Publisher



**I remember a Time or Two
Playing my guitar and hoping you would hear me**

**I travel round the world singing every night
Alone on stage and such a pitiful sight I know
I've gotta long, long way to go**

**AND YOU CAN BUY, BUY AN ALBUM LIKE AMERICAN PIE
YOU CAN SO FLY HIGH ON A STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN AT NIGHT
RIDE AWAY ON THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
Like A ROLLING STONE- You GOTTA LONG, LONG WAY TO GO**

**He had a long neck banjo on a riverside
walking on the water where the water was wide, you know
he had a long long way to go
And a Cat in the cradle had a lot to say
the story finally ended on a summer day, you know
he had a long long way to go**

**She wrote her songs on a window sill
Michael From Mountains and a dulcimer quill, you know
She had a long long way to go
There was a finger lickin' picker full of paranoia
Poling his boat in Carolina, I know
he had a long long way to go...**

CHORUS

**He flew a Bottle of Time straight into a tree
nothing was left for him to say to you and me
he had a long, long way to go
His pilot had a heart that couldn't continue
we lost those songs deep within, you know
he had a long, long way to go**

**Singing every night to a white man's girl
One Meatball left to give the world, you know
he had a long, long way to go
Full of Power and Glory and strong as an Oak
at 35 he ain't Marching no more, you know
he had a long, long way to go**

CHORUS

**There was a Trinity of 3's down Kingston Way
nothing was the same on the MTA, you know
they had a long, long way to go
Folk ain't broke where the Flowers grow
Greenback dollars need a pocket of Gold to grow
they had a long, long way to go.**



**Bluegrass, truegrass Mandolin King
High and Lonesome let the banjo's ring, you know
he had a long long way to go
Then one day three fingers rolled
they left Big Mon and went around the world on their own
they had a long, long way to go**

CHORUS

**Zimmy Minnisotee was a Rolling Stone
he wrote those words when he was all alone, I know
he had a long, long way to go
Joanie was his only and terribly lonely
Tangled up in Poetry and Matrimony, I know
she had a long long way to go**

**Rock those mountains with all 12 strings
lost in the ocean while Angels sing to you
he had a long, long way to go
Garden Parties and Iowa fields
Your legacy is lost to old news reels, I know
they had long, long way to go**

CHORUS

**Hip Hop Momma and Cajun Queens
Download Digital and Facebook Memes, you know
we gotta long long way to go
Like an aging high-tech Troubadour,
Old man fingers and not much more to go
you gotta a long long way to go**

**Play all day because you truly believe
hoping you'll sell that box of CDs, and you know
you gotta a long long way to go
Get a feature in the paper that nobody reads
about another song nobody needs, I know
you gotta long long way to go**

**AND YOU CAN BUY, BUY AN ALBUM LIKE AMERICAN PIE
YOU CAN FLY HIGH ON A STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN AT NIGHT
RIDE AWAY ON THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
Like A ROLLING STONE ... I GOTTA LONG, LONG WAY TO GO**

**I remember a Time or Two
Playing my guitar and hoping you would hear me**