

The Song List

- 1 The Painter 3:42
- 2 Vincent in the Rain 2:19
- 3 Blues Tonight 2:26
- 4 Cat's In The Cradle 3:43
- 5 The Statement 3:04
- 6 The Journey 2:47
- 7 Sunday Morning 2:20
- 8 Othello 3:04
- 9 Make You Feel My Love 2:57
- 10 Blue Moon 2:30
- 11 Vincent (Starry, Starry Night) 3:54

The latest album from the creator and host of the worldwide broadcast of the WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour



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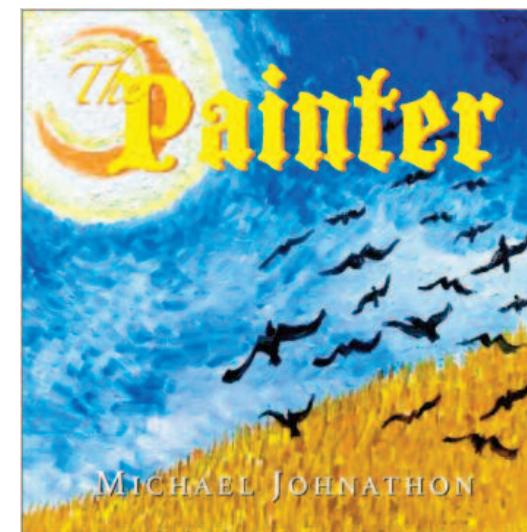
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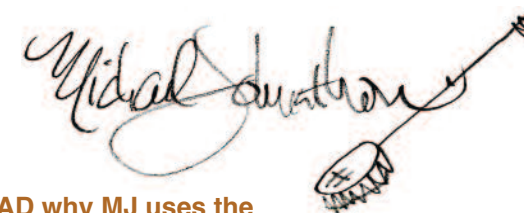


A Perfect Gift for every Artist, Songwriter, Painter and Creative



"The Painter" is a song cycle about art, artists, love and life.

The title cut is also for the theme song of the ongoing work for a motion picture script of the same name, about Vincent van Gogh coming back to see his despised work now revered worldwide. The music was inspired by Michael's own work creating oil paintings at his log cabin in Kentucky.



READ why MJ uses the banjo on his signature: MichaelJohnathon.com/pete

All 176 page books include a studio album on CD, are \$20 each postage paid in the USA. or as eBooks. Visit MichaelJohnathon.com/ws5

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

Bob Spear, HEARTLAND REVIEW

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MichaelJohnathon.com/ThePainterCD

Michael Johnathon

Pandemics, Painting & Possibilities

Merging Music, Movies, Art, Songwriting ... and the Milner Award

Among the throngs of artists in the music world, few have elevated “dreaming” to such a high standard as folksinger Michael Johnathon. Nearly all art forms have been darkened during this pandemic, especially music with the closures of venues, theatres, outdoor concerts and festivals. Folksinger, poet and author Michael Johnathon has turned to oil painting during this time of isolation, inspiring a brand new song cycle and album, *The Painter*.

Michael’s reputation as a renaissance artist is well established. As a teenager he had a comic strip published in 17 newspapers. Johnathon picked up the guitar and moved to the Appalachia mountains, becoming immersed in the music of America’s front porch. He is a touring songwriter with 17 released albums, five published books, playwright of the *Walden Play* performed in 42 countries, composer of the traditional opera, *Woody: For the People*. He organized the national association of front porch musicians called *SongFarmers*, now with 73 active chapters nationwide.

An adventurous performer, Michael filmed a concert special for public television, radio nationwide and the RFD TV Network with The Ohio Valley Symphony called “*Songs of Rural America*,” celebrating the music of America’s front porch.

He is the musical creator of the live audience broadcast of the *WoodSongs Old Time Radio Hour* with over two million listeners each week on 500 public radio stations, public TV coast-to-coast, American Forces Radio Network in 173 nations and the RFD-TV Network nationwide. WoodSongs recently produced its historic 1000th live audience broadcast (**WoodSongs.com/WS1000**) WoodSongs has brought the spirit of America’s front porch to radio and TV around the globe and the live audience broadcast has been produced in theatres from Arkansas to Ireland and from its home at the Lyric Theatre in Lexington. WoodSongs now has a major display for the public at the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame at Renfro Valley.

Along the way Johnathon released his fully illustrated book introducing kids to bluegrass music called *Mousie HiWay: The Adventures of Banjo Mouse*. Then the pandemic hit ... and the music world came to a crashing halt.

“*All touring stopped. The business of music stopped. But, art is born of isolation, so during this isolated, quiet time, an artist supposedly should do their best work, right?*” he says from his rural log cabin home in Kentucky.

So, he went to work and studied the styles of masters like Rembrandt, Michelangelo and Monet. When it came time for Johnathon to put his own brush to canvas, he settled on the influence of Vincent van Gogh “*Because his brilliance is in his simplicity,*” he explains, “*Vincent was so simple that it was complicated.*” Johnathon was drawn in by the imperfection, movement of the work and the spirit of van Gogh’s brush.

“*Vincent is to the art world as Woody Guthrie and Bob Dylan are to the music world,*” he explains. “*As a folksinger I get what makes their music so revered. Besides the power of their lyrics, it’s the accessibility of their songs. They’re simple, everybody wants to play them. That is the simplicity that I loved. I wanted my paintings to feel just as accessible. That is why I used van Gogh as a mentor, not to copy him, but to use his inspiration.*”

The PAINTER song cycle, the album ... and Movie script

To date, Johnathon has produced 43 oil paintings since the pandemic started from his art studio in his log cabin home. Several of his original works merge landscapes and sky with music themes as in his titles of “Banjo Galaxy”, “Pete (Seeger) My Old Brown Earth”, and “Starry, Starry Note” plus the cover of the new album, “The Painter.” (see **MichaelJohnathon.com/art**)

This inspired the songs for “The Painter,” a song cycle about art, artists, love and life.

“*To me, The Painter is a song cycle about the idea of the blank canvas of life being filled with all the colors of life. Art, music, painting, family, love, loss and the energy of seeking the next thing. Maybe that next thing is “God,” I don’t know.*”

The title cut is an original derivative of the classic *Vincent (Starry, Starry Night)*, the two songs act as bookends on the album. The timely plea of *The Statement* is balanced by Harry Chapin’s powerful *Cats In The Cradle*, embellished by, of all things, a hammer dulcimer. Dylan’s plaintive *Make You Feel My Love* is in lyrical contrast to Johnathon’s own *Blues Tonight*. *Vincent In The Rain* creates the imagery of Van Gogh’s search for love in France, while *Othello* merges the deception in the Shakespeare play with the idea of the deception of a blank canvas, creating what was not there.

As the pandemic subsides and the music world finds renewal, Michael Johnathon hopes to do a national concert tour of art galleries and museums to introduce his oil painting gallery and the songs from the new album. He also finished a movie script about Vincent van Gogh, also called *The Painter*.

The CANEY CREEK motion picture:

Michael wrote the screenplay of *Caney Creek: The Legend of Alice Lloyd* and it has been officially optioned as a motion picture. See the story line of this incredible, true story, described as the “*Dances with Wolves of Appalachia*” ... visit **CaneyCreekMovie.com**

The Milner Award

The highest honor given to any artist in Kentucky is presented by the Governor for outstanding achievements in the arts. Michael Johnathon was selected by Governor Beshear to receive the 2020 Milner Award (see **MichaelJohnathon.com/award**)

“*To stand in the company of Wendell Berry, James Still, icons like Jean Richie, Homer Ledford and so many other proud artists of Kentucky, it is deeply moving and I am more than grateful,*” he says.

A new album, songwriting, oil painting, an opera, a performance play, screen writing, a new book, a international radio and TV broadcast, a national association of front porch musicians, 7 year old twins and a log cabin in Kentucky .. and now a major award.



Merging music, painting, and writing seemed natural, so the album is packaged with his new book release, WoodSongs 5.

“*The world is a canvas of our imagination,*” said Henry David Thoreau. Welcome to the global canvas of Michael Johnathon.

