

# JOHNNY NEEL

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## BIOGRAPHY

Born and Raised in Wilmington, Delaware, Johnny Neel cut his first single at the age of twelve, as Johnny Neel and The Shapes Of Soul. As an adult, the Johnny Neel Band had a strong following up and down the East Coast and released two well-received independent albums. Neel moved to Nashville, the premiere song writing city, in 1984, where he immediately became recognized as an "A" session studio player. Others began to notice Neel's songwriting talent and decided to take advantage by recording his songs on their albums.

Performing with various bands in area clubs drew the attention of former Nashville resident Dickey Betts, who asked Neel to join his road band, and begin working on Dickey's solo LP for Epic Records. That relationship led to seven cuts on the "Pattern Disruptive" LP including the Top 10 AOR hit, "Rock Bottom." Neel's talented keyboard and harp playing on that album convinced Gregg Allman to ask Neel to tour with his road band.

Neel decided to join the reunited Allman Brothers Band, immersing himself in a successful tour, which led to a number one AOR smash hit during the summer of 1990. Car radios all across America blasted "Good Clean Fun", from the Seven Turns Album, co-written by Neel with Allman and Betts. The chart topping hit provided the reunited Allmans with their highest charting single since "Ramblin' Man" fifteen years prior.

Following that tour, Neel released "Late Night Breakfast", which was recorded at his studio, Straight Up Sound Studio, with the members of his band, "The Last Word", and special guests such as Shane Theriot (The Neville Brothers), Rick Vito (Fleetwood Mac) and Wayne Jackson (The Memphis Horns). This record was released on Neel's label, Breakin' Records, which showcased his pleading vocals as well as brilliant piano, B-3 and harp work.

During that same period of time the recordings were made, Neel also became a member of Blue Floyd, a premiere jam band with variations on the material of Pink Floyd. In addition to Neel, the band was comprised of Marc Ford (Black Crowes), Matt Abts (Gov't Mule), Berry Oakley, Jr. (OKB Band) and until his recent and unfortunate demise, Allen Woody (Gov't Mule). Neel and Abts then went into the Straight Up Sound Studio and recorded the X2 project which was graciously received by fans and the media.

More recently, some of Neel penned songs have been recorded by Travis Tritt, Montgomery Gentry and Delbert Mc Clinton. Neel is also excited about his latest release on Breakin' Records titled Gun Metal Blue, which is set for a street date release in April, 2004. As a man with boundless energy, Neel still manages to juggle studio work, local club gigs, road work and hit song writing, and somehow between the chaos maintains his sanity. *"They say that you can you can't do it all; Hell, I'm trying to prove 'em wrong."* - **Johnny Neel**



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## AWARDS

- \* Grammy nomination for keyboard work as an Allman Brothers Band member on the instrumental cut, "True Gravity" LP from the Seven Turns album
- \* ASCAP Country Award for "Take The Long Way Home" recorded by John Schneider
- \* BMI Citation Award as a member of The Allman Brothers Band
- \* Vocalist of The Year - 2001 Bands of Dixie Magazine (France) Readers Poll

## Television / Movie / Video Appearances

- \* XXXS and OOOO (Movie)
- \* Good Clean Fun (Video) - MTV Unplugged
- \* CBS This Morning
- \* The Tonight Show
- \* Nashville Now
- \* Music City Tonight
- \* Volunteer Jam – TNN

## Publishing Affiliations

Milene Music, Inc. - Nashville, Tennessee - 1993 to Present

Cuts by Chad Mullins, Restless Heart and Joe Louis Walker

Song Pantry Music, Inc. - Nashville, Tennessee - 1992 - 1993

Cuts by John Mayall, Irma Thomas, Travis Tritt and Jason D. Williams

Lew Bob Music - Universal City, California - 1990 - 1991

Cuts by Dorothy Moore, Marie Osmond, Ann Peebles and Delton Reeves

Song Pantry Music, Inc. - Nashville, Tennessee - 1985 – 1999

## Cuts performed by:

Delbert McClinton - Read Me My Rights on Grammy winning Nothing Personal

Montgomery Gentry - Good Clean Fun

Gov't Mule - 2 cuts on "Deep End Vol. II" DVD

The Allman Brothers Band - Four cuts on Seven Turns, and one cut on Hitting the Note

The Dickey Betts Band - 8 Cuts on Pattern Disruptive

John Schneider - "Take The Long Road Home" - ASCAP Country Award

Keith Whitley (Gold LP) Top Ten Singles

The Allman Brothers Band - #1 - "Good Clean Fun"

The Dickey Betts Band - "Rock Bottom"

Restless Heart - "When Someone Loves You"

John Schneider- "Take The Long Way Home"

## Co-Writers:

Gregg Allman

Dickey Betts

Billy Dean

Joe Diffie

Hank Cochran

Tony Colton

Warren Haynes

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Rick Giles  
Delbert McClinton  
Brent Mason  
Randy Van Warmer  
Kim Williams  
Lonnie Wilson  
Trisha Yearwood  
John Mayall  
Travis Tritt  
Joe Louis Walker  
Restless Heart (Gold LP)

## **Studio Recordings:**

Allman Brothers Band  
Willie Nelson  
Gregg Allman Band  
Dickey Betts Band  
Todd Snider  
Peter Wolf  
Suzy Bogguss  
X2  
Gov't Mule  
Warren Haynes  
Blue Floyd  
Janie Fricke  
Mickey Gilley  
David Lynn Jones  
Johnny Van Zant  
Pirates of the Mississippi  
Robert Gordon  
Carl Weathersby

## **Concerts:**

Jack Bruce (Cream)  
Mick Ronson (David Bowie)  
Mick Taylor (Rolling Stones)  
Rick Derringer  
Warren Haynes  
Tiny Town  
Volunteer Jam  
Lonnie Mack  
Keith Whitley  
David Lynn Jones  
Pam Tillis  
Terri Gibbs Tours

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X2 - 2002/2003  
Blue Floyd - 1999 / 2002  
Gov't Mule - 1999 / 2000  
Jo-el Sonnier - 1997  
Confederate Railroad  
Allman Brothers Band (1989 - 1991)  
Gregg Allman Band - 1988  
Dickey Betts Band – 1987  
North Mississippi All Stars  
Big Jack Johnson

