

Roger Johnson

After listening to *Stag Cotillion, Volumes One & Two*, it is easy to see why Roger Johnson has won three developing songwriter awards from ASCAP. With *Stag Cotillion*, he has crafted an album that *Beat Surrender* calls “a wonderful surprise – it's a brave effort to release something of this breadth. Does it work? In a word, yes! Roger Johnson is possessed of a wonderfully rich and layered voice. Add to the mix, his excellent song writing, a choice set of musicians and control over production and the end result is one great album, worthy of attention.”

Although each song stands on its own merits, *Stag Cotillion* has a story arc that follows one man's journey from the innocence of youth to the wisdom of maturity – from the inexplicable allure of an older femme fatale, to a star-crossed infatuation with a far younger woman. Whether under the withering glance of a disdainful ex-lover or as his own comedic foil, Johnson's protagonist is tested by a series of misadventures with the opposite sex, ultimately finding himself “dancing alone with many” (a true *Stag Cotillion*, indeed).

Peter Holmstedt of Sweden's *Hemifran Music*, calls Roger's songwriting “brilliant”. Johnson's evocative and poignant vocals have moved John Gjaltema of *AltCountry, The Netherlands* to hail Roger as “a great singer with a beautiful, rich voice – similar to the western soul of Raul Malo.”

Readers of the Americana music blog, *Twangville*, voted *Stag Cotillion* the third best album of 2009, while record producer and *Juilliard* faculty member, Greg Knowles, regards the double-disc set as a “must have.” Knowles further states that Johnson has “re-captured a classic, country-influenced rock sound, creating an updated version with no shortage of excellent musicians and first rate production!”

Doc Bowman of the *Palm Springs Music Magazine & Entertainment Guide*, is very straight forward in his praise for *Stag Cotillion*, calling it “a vanguard of excellence in a sea of musical mediocrity.”

Growing up under the musical influence of the Beatles, Byrds, Flying Burrito Bros and Eagles, Roger's songwriting reflects a highly sophisticated take on life and affairs of the heart (the two discs on *Stag Cotillion* contain 25 songs and 100 minutes of music). By subtly altering his voice, Johnson is able to underscore the story contained within each of his compositions. His singing and writing have invited favorable comparisons to Rodney Crowell, Raul Malo, Gene Clark, Gram Parsons and Dwight Yoakam.

All influences aside, however, there's no question that Johnson's music is fresh, new and distinctively his own. With years of professional music experience under his belt, Roger has developed the “big ears” that studio work requires of a successful record producer. As a live performer, he has shared the stage with singer-songwriter Kim Richey, rockabilly legend Rosie Flores and alt-country singer Jann Browne, as well as with Adam Durwitz of Counting Crows and David Lowry of Cracker. Johnson has also traveled to Los Angeles, appearing as a guest of the late music producer, Nik Venet, at the latter's legendary “*Campfire Conspiracy Songwriters Showcase*”.

For Additional Information...

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