

Minnesota Music Hall of Fame

Inductee



Johnny Western

Inducted in 2011

Johnny Western, country singer-songwriter, musician, actor, and radio show host, was born in Two Harbors, MN but was primarily raised in Northfield. When he was five years old, Western's parents took him to see the western film *Guns and Guitar*, which starred the actor, Gene Autry. The young boy decided he wanted to be a singing cowboy. At the age of 12 he received a guitar. Within a year, he was performing professionally. At the age of 13 he got a job on radio which got him named in *Billboard* magazine as the youngest disc jockey and singer on American radio. He performed with Gene Autry and for 30 years was a part of the Johnny Cash road show. Western wrote and performed the theme song *The Ballad of Paladin* for the TV show *Have Gun – Will Travel* and co-wrote songs for the TV show *The Rebel* and *Bonanza*.

