

JOHN ANDERSON

by Tamela Meredith Partridge
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Country singer and songwriter, John Anderson, has successfully carved a 31-year career out of putting the country back into contemporary Nashville music.

"There are a lot of different factors when it comes to the makings of a country song," Anderson says. "One of the main factors is just the believability of the song and the sincerity of the lyrics. That's one of the first things I look for. And then again, you have to take into consideration whether it's a funny song or a novelty thing that's not to be taken so serious. There are all kinds of factors, really."

Anderson -- who has been entertaining audiences with his arresting vocals, rhythmic guitar licks and compelling stage persona since he was 7 years old -- will perform at the McLean County Fair in Bloomington, IL. on Friday, August 1, at 7:30 pm.

"We've played many times through the years in the Bloomington area," Anderson says. "It's usually at a smaller venue where the fans get a up-close look at the entertainers and a non-distorted version of the music. Bloomington has always worked out for us."

In a recording career that began in '77, the Apopka, Florida native has released over 30 albums and charted five No.#1 Billboard country singles, "Wild And Blue," "Swingin'," "Black Sheep," "Straight Tequila Night" and "Money In The Bank."

"It's always great to work in the studio," Anderson says. "Studio work, for me, is always something that has intrigued me ever since day one. And I hope that it always will. For the most part, to write a song and see it become a record in the studio is always a thrill and something I look forward to. And if that song eventually becomes a hit and merits playing it live on stage and having the general public give it their stamp of approval, that's really where the thrill is at. It's a great feeling."



Anderson's instantly recognizable vocal swagger is a provocative mixture of rockabilly, outlaw gusto, tongue-in cheek humor and classic country musical influences.

"I was lucky to arrive in Nashville when I did," Anderson says. "I was able to not just meet all the great stylists that had influenced me so much -- George Jones, Merle Haggard, Charley Pride, Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson -- but I also had them tell me how much they enjoyed what I was doing and take me under their wings. And to think that I might have influenced some of the younger ones who've come along in the years since, well, that's mighty humbling."

Anderson's current '07 album, "Easy Money," is an eleven song collection produced by singer/songwriter, John Rich, of the country superduo Big & Rich.

"He's a very focused individual," Rich says, "but he is willing to listen to other people and stretch outside of his comfort zone. That's what a true artist does. He's wide open to any and all suggestions. They don't all work, but some do and you keep those."

Easy Money -- which was released by Raybaw Records/Warner Bros. Records -- revels in the chest-thumping energy of "If Her Lovin' Don't Kill Me," celebrates music's power of inclusion with "Funky Country," goes stone country on "Something To Drink About," launches hearts throatward on "I Can't Make Her Cry Anymore," and features a duet with Willie Nelson and Merle Haggard on "Willie's Guitar."

"John Anderson is the George Jones of my generation," Rich says. "I was too young to really be hip to country when George was ruling the roost, but from the age of eight to 25 I knew everything John did. I hear his voice in my head even to this day when I'm writing songs. I still catch myself singing John Anderson licks. He's in my country music DNA."

For Anderson, appreciating life, music, and a loyal fan base has played an important part in his career longevity.

"I give thanks every day to the good Lord for my many blessings," Anderson said. "Including the talent and my health for enjoying my travels and my music the way that I have been able to. That is my main source of inspiration."