



# The Musical Talents of Joey McGee

By JESSICA BANKE

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**TWO YEARS AGO, LOCAL** singer/songwriter and New Orleans native Joey McGee left his day job to pursue his life's passion: music. His genre of choice? A "creole gumbo" of musical influences he calls "Folk Rock Groove."

"It's sort of a blend of soul, gospel, blues, bluegrass, jazz, rock, folk, country, and even a dash of zydeco," says Joey, when describing his (literally) one-of-a-kind musical style.

But where does this particular blend of sounds come from? How does he make all these different elements work together?

Joey says, "It comes from who I am rather than trying to make it 'work.'"

In the Q & A below, Joey discusses his experience as a local performer and shares his advice for aspiring musicians.

**What would you say are your strengths as an artist?**

"Part of what I do well is take a cover song and make it my own. There is this song by Bob Dylan, "All Around The Watchtower." I have a blues version of it, an acoustic rock version of it, I even started playing one with a Latin feel to it. I like to take these songs in and put them out with a totally different groove to them."

**What are some differences between recording music and performing?**

"There's something about live music, energy that happens during a live performance, that can't

really be duplicated in a studio. Sometimes, [when you're playing live], you just have to plug away. But it's worth it because of those times when it's great. Also, playing at a place like, say, Veritas or Luigi's is a lot different than performing at Revs [Revolution Bar and Café in Downtown Bryan]."

**What was your best live performance experience ever; a night everything just really worked for you?**

"I don't think I've experienced my best performance ever just yet! The release of my latest CD, "Fades To Sun," was really cool though. I typically perform solo but I gathered musicians together who worked with me in the recording process and we performed a live show – that was AWESOME! I need to get a band together soon."

**What was the worst? What happened?**

"I don't think I've had a

worst either, believe it or not! I've yet to be booed off a stage or anything like that. There have been a number of occasions where it seems that I'm performing to the venue employee and no one else really cares what's going on. I take those times and count them as a practice and strive to do my best regardless. I tend to look on the bright side of things – it's a double-edged sword really. Some might say that there's no water in the glass; I tend to look for the water residue."

**What advice do you have for aspiring musicians?**

"Other than working on your actual craft, I think it's really important to surround yourself with other creative-type people. Creative spirits thrive around other creative spirits and there is a lot of stuff we typically have to fight against (especially in our own minds). I find

connecting with other artists (whether they are musicians or not) to be really refreshing. What we do is pretty atypical and we need to muster all of the encouragement that we can."

**Are you currently working on a new album?**

"I have a couple of ideas and recordings I'm working on now. My wife and I recently bought our first home (well, we're paying for it anyway) and that has slowed things down for me as far as recording and performing. Everything has its timing! I'll hopefully get back into a good recording groove in the fall."

For more information about Joey McGee or to check out his grooves, go to his website: [joeymcgeemusic.com](http://joeymcgeemusic.com); like him on Facebook: [facebook.com/JoeyMcGeeMusic](https://www.facebook.com/JoeyMcGeeMusic); or follow him on Twitter: @JoeyMcGee. **i**