SOULFUL AMERICANA SINGER-SONGWRITER JOEY McGEE CELEBRATES RELEASE OF *EL CAMINO REAL* WITH FULL-BAND PERFORMANCES

New Orleans, Pittsburgh & Various Texas Locales Infuse 10 Relatable Tracks by Two-Time Shiner Beer Rising Star Finalist

BRYAN, Texas — When Texas-based singer-songwriter Joey McGee equates music with salvation, he's not being dramatic. "I create music because it's a viable way of expressing all these thoughts, conflicts and emotions that swirl constantly inside my head," he explains. "It's this thing that *has* to get out ... a completed song is like a deep breath, exhaled and released."

Now that he's releasing his new album, *El Camino Real* (Feb. 22, 2019), McGee is breathing well — and looking forward to celebrating with album-release performances at several favorite Texas venues including Güero's and the Saxon Pub in Austin and Gruene Hall in New Braunfels. (See list below for dates and times.)

The album's nine originals, plus a cover of Guy Clark's classic, "The Cape," showcase the warmth of McGee's earthy Americana sound, a blend of soul, country, rock, blues and Creole-Cajun influences that twice earned him finalist spots in the annual Shiner Rising Star competition sponsored by Shiner Beer and Dallas radio station KHYI-FM The Range.

El Camino Real, which follows McGee's well-received 2017 release, Terlingua Taproot, was produced by David Percefull and recorded at Yellow Dog Studios in Wimberley, outside of Austin (except for one track, "The Journey"). Supporting McGee's baritone vocals and guitar playing are Percefull on electric guitars and keyboards, Adam J. Odor on bass, Josh Center on drums, Kim Deschamps on pedal steel and dobro and J Meridian on backing vocals. In addition to "The Cape," emphasis tracks include "Stuck," "Pining" and the folky centerpiece, "Sunday Blues."

It wraps up with a track that will resonate with any Texan: "Deep in the Heart," McGee's love letter to the state he's twice called home. He first migrated to the Lone Star state as a student, arriving from New Orleans. Then he headed up north, to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to complete his English degree. After years of building his reputation in rock bands — and enduring some nasty winters — he finally convinced his wife, whom he'd met in the Steel City, that they needed to be in Texas. As his album titles suggest, he got here — permanently — as soon as he could.

Joey McGee Texas dates

Feb. 21 – <u>Saxon Pub</u>, Austin

Feb. 22 – <u>Desert Door Distillery</u>, Driftwood

March 3 – Gruene Hall, New Braunfels

March 9 – <u>Grand Stafford Theater</u>, Bryan

March 27 – Güero's Taco Bar, Austin

April 4 – <u>Hays City Store</u>, Driftwood (with Tim Elliott)

May 18 – The Gallery Downtown, Navasota

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