

“John Flynn is the John Lennon of the Plasma Generation!”

—Ramblin’ Jack Elliott



(l to r): John Flynn, Willie Nelson, and Arlo Guthrie at Tipitina’s, at the end of the City of New Orleans Train Tour following Hurricane Katrina. (photo credit: Erika Goldring).

In an era of deep division, John Flynn’s songs call us together as they speak for the wounded, the weary, and the afflicted; for the prisoner, the soldier, and all the forgotten ones who walk unseen in our midst. Fusing the vision of an activist with the unblinking eye of a truth-teller, John Flynn’s music speaks deeply to the heart and the spirit. A wordsmith and poet of rare clarity, he evokes our shared humanity as he addresses the times we live in through songs that resonate with awareness, irony, humor and compassion.

The open heartedness and resonant decency in Flynn’s work have made him a staple of Phil Ochs Song Nights across the country, and brought him the respect and friendship of longtime heroes like Kris Kristofferson and Arlo Guthrie. Sally Millbury Steen of Pacem in Terris calls John Flynn “A troubadour of justice, mercy and hope.”



JOHN  
FLYNN



<http://www.JohnFlynn.net>

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"Flynn is the best of the best!" — Andy Braunfeld, Philadelphia Folk Festival

"The truth is in the details; the gifts are an ear for accurate dialogue, an eye for powerful imagery and anything funny, and a heart open to surprises and the possibilities of moving the emotions. John Flynn is one of a special breed of good-hearted artists whose reaction to the Human Condition finds kind, humorous expression. God bless them."

— Kris Kristofferson

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Few people who knew John Flynn as a boy would have predicted the path his life would take. A self-professed "straight arrow," as a senior at Ridley High in suburban Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the former altar boy who once strummed a New Year's Day banjo in the world famous Mummers Parade was named president of the National Honor Society and Scholar Athlete of the Year while receiving two congressional nominations to the United States Naval Academy. John was making plans to play lacrosse for Navy when he found out he would not be able to take his guitar with him to Annapolis. Although music had always been an important part of John's life, he was surprised to realize how much he had come to rely on his beloved Guild twelve-string. The thought of leaving it behind, even for a few months, caused him to begin to admit to himself that he had other dreams.

John abruptly changed course and began writing songs in earnest. He put himself through Temple University playing in bar bands. Though his degree was in political science, he abandoned the idea of studying law when he was offered a staff songwriting position at Combine Music in Nashville, following Billy Swan's Top 40 country recording of John's song, "Rainbows and Butterflies."

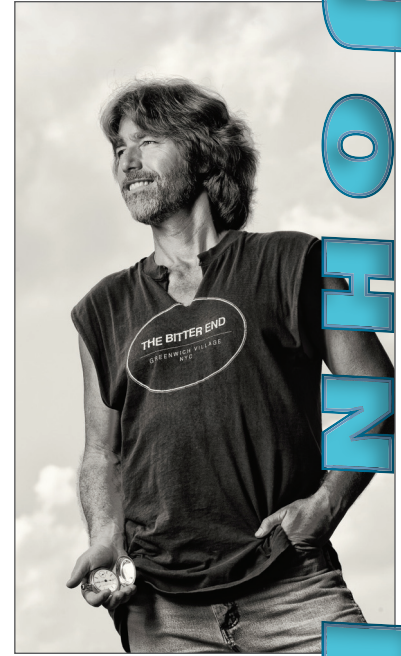
It was Swan who first introduced John to Kris Kristofferson. Since then Kris has written liner notes for John, sung on three of Flynn's CDs, and even recited the lyrics to John's song, "Without You with Me," at Stephen Bruton's funeral.

Today, John's shows draw from a significant body of work, ranging from his early country offerings to story songs, love songs, songs for kids, funny songs, songs of social justice, and meditations on loss, tolerance, faith and hope. The 55 year-old father of four spurned touring when his children were young, but as the kids grew older, superlatives began to welcome their dad's arrival to the national folk stage. In 2005, Arlo Guthrie invited John to join musical legends like Willie Nelson and Ramblin' Jack Elliott on the historic City of New Orleans Train Tour following Hurricane Katrina.

"Every song I write always feels like my first," says Flynn of the trade he's practiced for more than three decades. "I guess that's why I love it so much. It's almost like that Buddhist concept of the beginner's mind. Each song challenges you to seek and see new possibilities. After all these years, I feel like I'm just getting warmed up."

Among the recognitions John has received for his work are the Dominican's Shining Star Award, The Rotary's Paul Harris Fellow Award, Pacem in Terris's Peacemaker Among Us Award, and the American Library Association's Notable Recording Award. John was also honored for his contribution to the anti-bullying project, "All About Bullies, Big and Small," which won a Grammy as Best Children's Album of 2012.

John resides in the Brandywine area of Northern Delaware with his family and his running partner, Chief, the world's most exuberant Frisbee-catching German Shepherd.



Jim Graham photo credits

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"A philosopher with a guitar ..." — acousticmusic.com

"A John Flynn concert is a love letter to your audience; his words linger for days and young and old depart filled with hope and ready to change the world for the better."

— Philadelphia International Children's Festival

"More than just a good song writer, performer, or guitar player, John Flynn is a friend because he actually does the kinds of things to help make the world a little better than other people write, sing and play about."

— Arlo Guthrie

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