

JOHN FORD COLEY

By Helen Marketti

During the 70s, John Ford Coley was half of the singing duo with England Dan. Their hits included, "I'd Really Love to See You Tonight", "Love Is The Answer", "We'll Never Have to Say Goodbye Again", "Nights Are Forever Without You" and more. Everyone can hear these great classics and more on Saturday, November 10 as John will be at The Winchester in Lakewood.

"I grew up on The Beach Boys, Buffalo Springfield, Joni Mitchell and even Stephen Foster to name a few. It was an eclectic mix for me because I liked so many artists across the board," explains John. "Music as a career for me just kind of took on a life of its own. I went to college and ended up with an English Literature major and there was a time that I even thought about going into medical school. Music wasn't something that I had planned on doing the rest of my life but it came to a point where God kissed me and said this is what you are going to do."

John's career has spanned over forty years. "I really love what I do. I'm not one of these guys that just plays guitar when I get onstage. I play it all of the time whether it's at the airport, hotel room and so forth. It's also a way of calming myself down. I like to play music more than I like to listen to it. I really have learned a lot from watching other people over the years. When you get that kind of inspiration, it keeps you moving forward because you're always learning something," said John.

Over the years, John has worked with many artists such as Fleetwood Mac, Lou Gramm,

Randy Bachman, Carly Simon, Elton John, Chicago, Heart and Led Zeppelin. "One of the things that make this so enjoyable are all of the different people I get to play with. I always like to catch up with others to see how they are doing and what they are working on."

John spent many years with England Dan (Dan Seals) as his musical partner. "Dan and I are both from Texas and had known each other since high school. Dan always tried to talk in an English accent because of the British groups. Since he had a natural southern accent, it wasn't very easy for him to speak in an English accent (laughs). Dan's older brother, Jimmy Seals (Seals & Crofts) gave him the nickname of England Dan."

"Dan and I were together for a long time," said John. "We started playing together in high school and at first we didn't get along too well because he wanted another guitar player with the band instead of me. We then ended up singing Everly Brothers songs together, started writing together and ended up becoming the best of friends, more like a brother than anything else. We did great things together for many years and broke up in 1980. After that, he went into Country music. We had a good friendship for years. It did get ugly between us for a little while but we mended things. We realized it was other people who were trying to put a wedge between us to gain control. So we put all that aside and got back on track. Dan passed away a couple years ago and we had no issues between us what so ever."

He continues, "The difference between then and now in the music industry is that

when Dan and I were together, we never did it to become famous, we did it because we really enjoyed the music. We played in smoky, smelly, dark clubs because we wanted to play the music. Now it seems that people are more concerned with just being famous. They don't seem very concerned with playing the music. I believe there are some who really don't care about the music; they just want the perks of being famous. There really aren't any perks as one might think. The road is not easy as some may think and some don't last for very long because they are expecting "star treatment" and it just doesn't happen like that."

John enjoys singing the hits from the early days as well as his current material. "I have never had a problem playing the songs that everyone wants to hear. Each time I play those songs, it's different. I might be by myself or I might be with a band. I have never gotten onstage and wished I didn't have to do it. I really enjoy those songs and I don't mind looking back because I think it's important to see where you have come from and where you are going. It is what it is. I play my new material and the old ones too because that's what people want to hear."

John has played at The Winchester in Lakewood before and always enjoys the



venue. "Jim who owns The Winchester is a great host. Plus I like playing with The Cryers. We are all good friends and can laugh together. I enjoy that."

"You never know what people are going to be attracted to when you play your music so it's gratifying when fans approach you. You know that you have made an impression on them somewhere along the line. I would like to welcome everyone to come on out and see us at The Winchester on Saturday, November 10. It will be a great stress relief."

For more information: www.johnfordcoley.com
John Ford Coley is on Facebook.

Jimmy Ales

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