

Steve Forbert – Bio

Steve Forbert was born in 1954 and raised in Meridian, Mississippi, an historic city whose position as a crucial Confederate railroad hub was such that it ultimately drew the unwelcome attention of one General William Tecumseh Sherman (who is said to have proclaimed, as he rode out of sight, “Meridian is no more.”). Sherman's boast notwithstanding, Meridian carried on, and even thrived. In 1897, **Jimmie Rodgers** (The Father Of Country Music) was born there.

Forbert took to music early on, learning to play guitar from a distant cousin of Rodgers' at the age of 10. He apprenticed in the typical array of local bands through high school, after which (like another famous musical **Son Of Mississippi**) he augmented his income as a truck driver.

But small-town Mississippi life just wasn't cutting it and at age 21 he packed up his songs, his guitar, his harmonica and his ambition and moved to New York City. Taking a room at the “Y” on 23rd Street, he worked various odd jobs by day, and spent evenings busking in Grand Central Station.

Young, confident and generally optimistic, Forbert (and his music) flourished in Greenwich Village's tough-but-romantic bohemian lifestyle where his Southern Folkie persona was in marked contrast to the harder edged new wave scene that was thriving at the time. Gigs at the renowned Folk City led to his first paying gig in NYC at Kenny's Castaways while an audition at Hilly Crystal's fabled CBGB's produced opening act slots for artists ranging from **Talking Heads** to **John Cale**.

Forbert was signed to Nemperor Records (a Columbia subsidiary), and his debut record, *Alive On Arrival*, produced by Steve Burgh and recorded at A&R Studio in New York was released in 1978. Like a lot of other talented singer/songwriters who happened to play acoustic guitar and a harp-on-a-rack, Forbert was hailed by critics and promoters alike as yet another “next **Dylan**.” His sophomore outing “**Jackrabbit Slim**,” produced by John Simon and recorded at Quadraphonic Sound, Nashville, charted reaching # 20 U.S. Pop Album and contained the # 11 U.S. Pop hit single “Romeo's Tune.” Forbert's recorded another pair of albums for Columbia, but neither sold well. “**Little Stevie Orbit**” produced by Pete Solley was recorded at A&R Studios, while “**Steve Forbert**” was produced by Steve Burgh, and recorded at Skyline Studio, New York with additional recording at Woodland Sound, Nashville and the Power Station, New York. In 1985 Forbert moved his base to Nashville.

Signing with the Geffen label, Steve cut two albums for the imprint. “**Streets Of This Town**” was produced by Bruce Springsteen bassist Garry Tallent and recorded at Shorefire Recording Studio, Long Branch, N.J., while “**The American In Me**” produced by Pete Anderson was mostly recorded at Track Records Studio, North Hollywood, California and also at Tallent's Moondog Music in Nashville [Tallent settled in Nashville during 1989]. In 1993 Columbia/Legacy released the compilation “**Best Of Steve Forbert: What Kinda Guy?**” In 2003 Geffen repackaged Forbert's 1988/1992 albums as “**Rock While I Can Rock: The Geffen Years.**”

Since 1994 Forbert has released nine live albums and six studio albums. The first ‘live’ disc “**Be Here Now: Solo Live 1994**,” featuring Steve Forbert on vocals, guitar, and harmonica, was produced by Marrow DeMerle [Forbert's alter ego?] and recorded at three locations - Blue Heart Cafe, Portland, Oregon [25th February 1994], Classic's Cafe, Westwood, New Jersey [3rd April 1994] and the Be Here Now, Asheville, North Carolina [9th April 9 1994]. “**King Biscuit Flower Hour Presents Steve Forbert**” aka “**In Concert**” dated from a 14th August 1982 show at My Father's Place, Long Island, and later appeared as the Silverline DVD Audio release “**From the Front Row...Live**” [2004]. Credited to Steve Forbert and the Rough Squirrels “**Here's Your Pizza**,” produced by Forbert had been recorded 28th/29th May 1987 at Harbor Docks, Destin, Florida, while “**Be Here Again: Solo Live 1998**” with production credited to DeMerle and Erik Wolf was recorded 23rd October 1998 in Canada at the Calgary Center for the Performing Arts. Featuring Steve Forbert and bassist Gary Solomon, “**Acoustic Live: The WFUV Concert**” was recorded 8th June 2000 at Fordham University, The Bronx, New York, while “**Live At The Bottom Line**” was recorded on Saturday 8th July 2000 at the now defunct New York venue. “**Solo Live in Bethlehem**” was recorded at Godfrey Daniels, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania during the early show on 13th September 2002, and produced by DeMerle. “**Good Soul Food**” was recorded at The Ark, Ann Arbor, Michigan on 3rd June 2004, while “**It's Been A Long Time**” was recorded at the Sellersville Theatre in Sellersville, Pennsylvania on 28th January 2006. Since 2000 Forbert has also released a pair

of archive recordings **“Young, Guitar Days”** and **“More Young, Guitar Days,”** while **“You Cannot Win If You Do Not Play”** was a career anthology of Forbert videos and live concerts and featured 21 songs.

As for Steve’s studio outings, commencing in mid nineteen-nineties Forbert cut two albums for the Giant subsidiary of Warner Bros. Records - **“Mission Of The Crossroad Palms”** was produced by Tallent and recorded at Moondog, while **“Rocking Horse Head”** was produced by Brad Jones and recorded in Nashville at Treasure Isle and Alex the Great Studio. Except for **“Trusting Old Soul”** which was produced by Ben Keith, Jim Dickinson produced **“Evergreen Boy”** which was recorded at Ardent Studios, Memphis , with additional recording at Sounds Unreel in Memphis and at Moondog. **“Any Old Time,”** a Jimmie Rodgers song tribute, was produced by Forbert, Tallent and Tim Coats. Four of the songs on **“Just Like There’s Nothin’ To It”** were produced by Jason Lehning, while eight tracks were credited to Jason Lehning and Marc Muller, and the sessions took place at the Pool Room, Neptune, New Jersey, and in Nashville at The Compound, Wolf Music, House of David and Moondog. Released in late June 2007 by 429 Records, **“Strange Names & New Sensations”** the production credit read Forbert and Coats, with Tallent, Muller and Anthony Crawford. Forbert closed the album with a reprise of **“Romeo’s Tune.”**

Discography : **“Alive on Arrival”** [1978] ; **“Jackrabbit Slim”** [1979] ; **“Little Stevie Orbit”** [1980] ; **“Steve Forbert”** [1982] ; **“Streets Of This Town”** [1988] ; **“The American In Me”** [1992] ; **“Best Of Steve Forbert: What Kinda Guy?”** [1993] ; **“Be Here Now: Solo Live 1994”** [1994] ; **“Mission Of The Crossroad Palms”** [1995] ; **“King Biscuit Flower Hour Presents Steve Forbert”** [1995] ; **“Rocking Horse Head”** [1996] ; **“Here’s Your Pizza”** [1997] ; **“Be Here Again: Solo Live 1998”** [1998] ; **“Evergreen Boy”** [2000] ; **“Acoustic Live: The WFUV Concert”** [2000] ; **“Young, Guitar Days”** [2001] ; **“Live at the Bottom Line”** [2001] ; **“More Young, Guitar Days”** [2002] ; **“Any Old Time”** [2002] ; **“Solo Live in Bethlehem”** [2003] ; **“Rock While I Can Rock: The Geffen Years”** [2003] ; **“Just Like There’s Nothin’ To It”** [2004] ; **“Good Soul Food”** [2005] ; **“It’s Been A Long Time”** [2006] ; **“Strange Names & New Sensations”** [2007] :

DVD – **“From the Front Row...Live”** [2004] ; **“You Cannot Win If You Do Not Play”** [2005] ; **“On Stage At World Cafe Live”** [2007] :

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