

Brian Cutean – Bio

Brian Cutean, aka Brian QTN, was born in 1955 and raised in the Chicago, Illinois area. The second of four siblings, his first musical memories are of hearing Spike Jones' songs in his father's record collection, and "Stardust" on his mother's musical jewellery box. Cutean's first exhibited motor skill, outside of feeding himself, was his ability to play records on the blue wind-up record player that he shared with his older brother. Brian's introduction to Elvis Presley came via a four artist 45rpm EP given away with a box of potato chips, and although he doesn't recall the song title, he only ever listened to it at 16 rpm! At the age of five, Brian was given his first transistor radio. Of that introduction to an endless diet of music, Cutean has been quoted as saying, *"That was the end of the world."* From an early age, Brian witnessed countless musical performances in the city's many clubs and festivals. At the time, there was a burgeoning blues and folk music scene in the Chicago area. Brian picked up his first guitar aged 15, and to quote QTN *"The guitar has been picking me up ever since."* Following graduation from high school, Cutean went on to study art and radio at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois and while there became a late night deejay and then Music Director with the local radio station WKDI.

In 1976, seeking warmer climes and more progressive attitudes of mind, Brian relocated to Austin, Texas where he spent the next dozen years, played every club in town as a solo artist, was also a member of the bands DBO and Go Ahead, worked as a sound tech and hosted open mikes. In 1987, seeking significant signs of water as well as greener spaces, he purchased a large van, travelled all over the western U.S.A. and eventually relocated to America's upper left edge spending five years in Ashland, Eugene and Portland, Oregon and Seattle and Port Townsend, Washington and many other points in between. These days Brian lives in a rustic cabin in the Oregon woods.

Brian attended his first Kerrville Folk Festival in 1980 as a New Folk finalist [Lyle Lovett and Dave Scheidel were fellow competitors that year]. He was a finalist again in 1984 [performing an instrumental no less!] and once more in 1990, although not necessarily using his own name – we won't relate the full story here, but the latter remains one of Kerrville's enduing legends. In 1991, Brian performed in one of the first of a continuing series of "Sundown Concerts" at the Kerrville Festival. Among numerous other song contests Brian has entered and placed in include, the Columbia Music Festival in Spokane, Washington, the Mesquite Folk Festival in Dallas, the Austin Music Umbrella Awards and Musician Magazine's Best Unsigned Band.

Brian appeared on the March 1986 edition of Fast Folk Musical Magazine [Vol. 3, No. 3], performing his song "The Little Package." The Fast Folk catalogue of recordings was transferred to the archives at the Smithsonian Institute a few years ago, where they will remain available *"in perpetuity."* Cutean has been a regular performer at the Oregon Country Fair since 1988, which is the year that he released his debut solo recording **"Lubricating The Species"** as a 12" vinyl album. Since then four other albums have followed, on cassette and CD. In 2001, to celebrate his 45th birthday, Cutean released a two-song CD single - ie. "a 45 for his 45th," featuring "Food [Who Can Budge-It Blues]" b/w "The Mess Age," albeit on a CD.

In recent times, Brian has earned co-writing credits on three nationally released CDs. First, there's Willy Porter's successful FM single "Unconditional" [which appeared on **"Willy Porter"** [2002] and **"High Wire Live"** [2003] on Six Degrees Records]. "Buddy and Carol's Waltz", an instrumental, appears on the Steve Gillette and Cindy Mangsen Redwing Records CD **"Sense of Place"** [2001]. Finally, those East Coast based *rabble-rousers* Chris Chandler and Anne Feeney, segued Brian's "Food" into the "Martin Luther Classic" track on their latest CD, **"The Wholly Stolen Empire"** [2003].

Brian Cutean's latest solo album, the cleverly [almost symmetrically - well, one way] titled **"Heartheartearth"** appeared in the spring of 2004. An adept storyteller, as well as an acoustic musician who performs his own folk tinged compositions Cutean's lyrics run the gamut of personal reflection to commentary on social issues. That said, it's not unknown for him to deliver a humorous tune full of intricate wordplay, while retaining a devilish twinkle in his eye. Unique is not an adequate enough word to describe Brian Cutean.

Discography :

Solo : **"Lubricating The Species"** [1988] ; **"What A Bit Of Moonlight Can Do"** [1991] ; **"Is As Does Is"** [1996] ; **"Parakeetfishhead"** [1999] ; **"Heartheartearth"** [2004] :

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