

J. P. Jones – Bio

John Paul Jones [J. P. Jones] was born in Wakefield, Rhode Island in 1949, and raised in the Western Massachusetts town of Springfield. Although Jones attempted formal piano lessons as a youngster, he eventually learned to play the instrument by ear. Having graduated from high school - Wilbraham Academy, with the options of teaching or entering the ministry, J. P. went on to study at Baptist Bible College & Seminary in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. Three semesters later, he enrolled at Holyoke Community College in Holyoke, Massachusetts where he earned an external associate B.A. from Amherst College.

In his late teens while still a college student J. P. taught himself to play guitar and began writing songs. Having signed a deal with Windfall Records, who had a licensing agreement with CBS Records, the album "**John Paul Jones**" was released in 1972. The band Mountain recorded a trio of albums for Windfall, which was owned by Bud Praeger and Felix Pappalardi [the band's producer/bassist]. Jones' album failed to sell and the contract he signed tied him to the label for the ensuing five years. Since Windfall could assert ownership, Jones did not write any songs during that period. During the late seventies, Jones cut demos with John Hammond Sr. [the man who brought Dylan to CBS] and Ed Freeman [Tim Hardin, Don McLean], but none of those recordings were ever released.

In the early eighties Jones was the vocalist in the New York City band, John Train [a Phil Ochs pseudonym], and they self-released a couple of singles. Through the remainder of the decade, Jones worked as a commercial artist, played open mics. and continued writing songs. Early in the final decade of last century, J. P. returned to Rhode Island where he began connecting with folk musicians in the New England area. Initially he appeared on a number of compilations, including WWUH "**Folk Next Door**," the Rhode Island Songwriters Association's "**12 Steps Of Christmas**" and the Hope Centre of Providence's "**Our Invincible Summer**." In late 1990 he released the album "**Voluntown**," and since that time nine other recordings have followed.

In addition to working as a solo act, J. P. is also a member of the seven-piece Rhode Island band Rite Tite, which features two drummers, violin, bass, keyboards and electric guitar. While most of his releases are acoustic and folk influenced, "**Life And Death**," is a full electric band recording. In early 2004, J. P. Jones released the solo acoustic collection "**Jeremiah**," and within the year followed with "**Thugs And Lovers**."

Discography :

Solo : "**John Paul Jones**" [1973] ; "**Voluntown**" [1990] ; "**Broken Open**" [1994] ; "**Bard**" [1997] ; "**Angels On The Road**" [1998] ; "**Broken Open**" revised version [1999] ; "**Ashes**" [1999] ; "**Back To Jerusalem**" [2000] ; "**Salvation Street**" [2001] ; "**Life And Death**" [2003] ; "**Jeremiah**" [2004] ; "**Thugs And Lovers**" [2005] :

Arthur Wood

Kerrville Kronikles 07/04 & 03/05

[420 words]