

## Joe Rathburn Bio

Singer/songwriter/guitarist **Joe Rathburn** is a lifetime/fulltime musician, hailing from San Diego, California.

Since October of 2006 he has hosted a weekly songwriter showcase in San Diego called **Joe Rathburn's Folkey Monkey**. It has garnered a reputation for being one of the best regular acoustic shows in town.

Joe won 1st place, Best Traditional Folk Song category, in the 2004 **Just Plain Folks Music Awards** for his light hearted song, **The Dad I Had**. It was picked out of 140,000 entries.

He's been nominated 3 times in the **San Diego Music Awards** as a performer and for his first two recordings: 1997's Little Suns, and 2001's Rockwells and Picassos.

In December of 2005 he released his third CD, *Would You Please Welcome: Joe Rathburn, Live at Dark Thirty*, a double disc set containing concert performances of 10 previously released Joe tunes, and 11 previously un-released songs.

Joe has gained recognition for his deft guitar work, emotive voice, as well as his fine song writing abilities and wry sense of humor.

He has represented **Taylor Guitars** at two **Folk Alliance Conferences**, the **2003 Winter NAMM Convention**, and on the Taylor produced **Expression System Pickup DVD**.

He was included on the history making MP3 compilation CD put out by **Music Match** and songs.com: **The Best of Independent American Music**. At the time of it's release it was the most songs ever commercially released on one CD (152) including other great artists as: **Chuck Brodsky, Jack Williams, Dana Cooper, Janis Ian, Buddy Mondlock, and Tom Prasada-Rao**.

He performs continuously and his vast stage experience includes: festivals, arenas, clubs, churches, and coffeehouses, headlining his own shows as well as opening shows for others. He has opened for Ellis Paul, Susan Werner, Dave Van Ronk and a list of others as diverse as Chuck Berry, The Guess Who, Ray Charles, and Kiss.

Joe's music can be placed in the genre called **Positive Music**. His tunes have purpose, and carry with them more than just chord changes, grooves, catchy melodies, and hooks for the sake of their cool factor. They speak to the heart and mind of the listener directly. They uplift the soul in an instantly tangible way, while remaining fun, interesting, and non-preachy.

Joe's music can also be likened to the singer/songwriters of the 1960s and '70s: the Paul Simon, James Taylor, Cat Stevens variety, yet his has a quality all his own which, though paying homage, never copies..

### What the press and others have said:

**"Joe Rathburn's music is hard to pigeon-hole...  
he's just really, really good."**

— Jim Hoehn of the Milwaukee Journal.

**"Four Stars!"**

— C.C. Federspiel of Oakland Michigan's, The Oakland Press.

**"Four Stars"**

**"Joe Rathburn is definitely a man of sensibility.  
His latest album, *Little Suns*, truly shines."**

— Tracy Page in San Diego's SLAMM Magazine.

**"Little Suns... a thoroughly enjoyable listen."**

— John D'Agostino award winning music journalist  
(LA Times, Musician Magazine, San Diego Reader)  
in Taylor Guitar's Wood & Steel Magazine.

**"...Joe Rathburn sings modest tunes about ordinary people, but the care and craft he devotes to his Everyguy (and Everygal) songs give each little story a big warm heart."**

— Karla Peterson, The San Diego Union/Tribune.

**"Joe, I personally like your music.  
What I'm especially drawn to is the heart in it."**

— Tom Kimmel, singer/songwriter (covered by Linda Ronstadt, Joe Cocker, Maura O'Connell, The Stray Cats, to name a few).

**"One of the top folk singer/songwriters rising up from America's Finest [City], Joe Rathburn, is back with twelve acoustic guitar-based songs in the vein of Croce, Henley, Cockburn and other greats before him. The thoughtful Americana themes underlying Rockwells and Picassos are the result of this positive thinking, possible ex-hippie, pouring his heart into his catchy, feel-good tunes. Rathburn has a broad range of sounds in his sincere storytelling folk-pop that has only gotten better with this album."**

- Blair Alley in SLAMM Magazine

**"I'm REALLY picky about what goes on the front page. We get about 40 new albums a DAY coming in here now, (about 12,000 total), and yours is one of the best I've ever heard.**

**A very cunning and lucid work of folk pop splendor."**

- Derek Sivers, President, CDBaby.com.

**"Present once again is Joe Rathburn's trademark solid songwriting, and his clean and articulate acoustic guitar work - but a welcome addition this time around are the stylistic stretches that go beyond the usual idiomatic singer-songwriter fare."**

- Jim Earp.

**"If the purpose of folk music is to provide the listener with something to think about while being entertained with good instrumental and vocal accompaniment, Joe Rathburn has hit the mark."**

- Dave Garcia, San Diego Troubadour Magazine, January 2002 issue.

**"I think Rockwells & Picassos may be the independent CD of the year."**

- Jim Hoehn of the Milwaukee Journal.

**"Polished songcraft... Story songs and metaphysical ruminations trade off in a balance of sophistication, wit, and folksy charm... Articulate guitar lines, thoughtful lyrics, and earthy vocals crystallize together.**

- John D'Agostino in Taylor Guitar's Wood & Steel Magazine.

**"What is immediately striking about this music is it's positive tone. Rathburn talks about the lack of spirituality in our lives, and togetherness... The music is top notch and he has a great versatility and breadth in musical knowledge..."**

- Muscene.com