



Gene Watson Fan Club Newsletter

Volume 68

May - June, 2020

Dear Friends -

What a strange year we're having. I'm staying home and trying to be careful and I hope you are doing the same. I'm looking forward to when we can all get back to our normal routines.

Being off the road has given the band and me time to reflect on the past. As we look forward to getting back on the road, we have realized just how much we miss interacting with you, our friends and fans. We get as much enjoyment seeing you singing along, applauding, as you do listening to your favorites coming from us. And, personally, I miss the paper roses. Wonder how many paper roses have made it to our shows over the years?

Once the venues are allowed to re-open at full capacity and no restrictions, we hope we can get back to our normal schedule. In the meantime, for any of our shows in your area, always double check with the venue first. Things are changing daily.

Please know I'm thinking of you and wishing you all the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Watson".

Happy 4th of July!



Gene Watson Photos Through The Years



Early Capitol Records publicity photo from around 1975/1976. This custom suit was made in Houston, TX.



Performing at the International Fan Club Organization (IFCO) show in 1980. The Johnson sisters organized and ran the very first Fan Fair shows which were held then at Nashville's Municipal Auditorium. The Johnson's deserve all the credit for dreaming up Fan Fair which is now called CMA Fest.

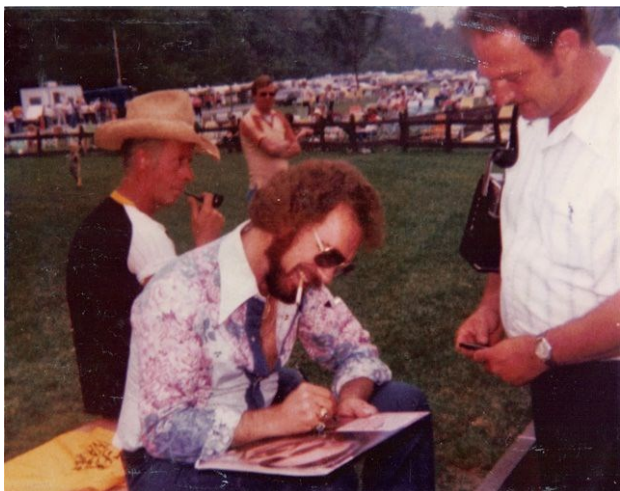


After performing at the Wembley Festival in Belfast, N. Ireland, this photo was taken at a friend's home. On the Wembley show performances, Carl Perkins opened, then Gene and his band, then George Jones. Gene had to do an encore and all 3 acts received a standing ovation which was unusual to receive from the festival crowd back then.



This photo is from a Hee Haw performance. Gene says taping Hee Haw was his favorite TV show to do.

More Gene Watson Photos Through The Years



Westgrove, PA at Sunset Park - This is a different year but this is the site that Gene famously once had to be flown in on a helicopter and with no time to spare, had to go right onto the stage in what he was wearing - which was shorts and a T shirt!



This image is from when Gene was signed to Warner Bros. Records. The shirt was custom made by the famous designer, Manuel. When Gene was having a photo shoot in LA, Manuel personally visited to take measurements for this shirt.



From 2009 at the Tri-Lakes Center in Branson, MO - After opening the show for Merle Haggard, Merle called Gene onstage to sing one with him. Gene said it didn't matter what song because he was such a Merle fan, he didn't think there was any Merle song he didn't know!



August 2009 - After taping the Crook & Chase show at the Country Music Hall of Fame, this photo was snapped backstage. L-R: Lorianne Crook, David Nail (Mercury Records artists), Gene Watson, George Jones and Charlie Chase.



Question & Answer Session With Gene!



Q: How did you get your first professional singing job?

A: My cousin (by marriage) knew the owner of the The Palms Danceland club on Military Parkway in Dallas in 1966. He took me there and talked the owner into letting me sit in with the house band - so within a short time , I was up onstage doing 4 songs and I got hired on the spot. I can't recall the songs I did but I'm sure at least one would have been a Haggard song. The club had a house band with a good lead singer, Eddie McCall. When I started working, Eddie and I would sometimes go on at the same time and trade back and forth on the verses. He knew as many songs as I did so we had a good time onstage. The job was 6 nights a week for 4 hours and then on Sunday the Texas Instrument company sponsored a show for all the ladies who worked at the company. The ladies got free drinks. This was a daytime show but with all the ladies there, the men came too and that place would be jumping. We did our regular Dancehall show and the place was packed.

Q: When you recorded "Help Me", the songwriter of the song, Larry Gatlin, came to the studio to hear you record it. Have you had other songwriters at your sessions to hear you record their songs?

A: Yes, a few. I remember when I was at the Jack Clements studio in Nashville, I was recording a tune Dolly Parton wrote called "Most Of All Why". She came in and after I finished she hugged my neck for recording her song. Then another time at the same studio, I was recording a great song called "Just at Dawn", written by a well-known songwriter, Wild Bill Emerson.

Emerson walked in with George Jones and stayed for a good long while and we had a great time. Of course, two of my favorite songwriters were also session musicians that I used frequently on my recordings. Joe Allen (bass) and Dave Kirby (acoustic guitar) were quite often around when I recorded one of their songs.

Q: In the old 45 single days with an "A" and "B" side, did you ever have a single get "flipped" where the hit was the "B" side?

A: I can't recall ever having one flipped but I was more fortunate than many artists in those days in that I was the one primarily who chose what went out to radio. I wonder how many folks know that the Grammy winning "Almost Persuaded" was originally the "B" side. Music history buffs usually consider the best "double-sided 45 ever to be Elvis Presley's A-side of "Don't Be Cruel" with B-side "Hound Dog".

Q: Do you still play your guitars at home and do you have a favorite?

A: Funny you should ask. I've had most of my guitars packed up carefully but during this pandemic, I've just now started wanting to play again. My favorite is probably my Gibson Heritage acoustic because it has great tone and it was the very first one sold in Houston. I bought it from Red Novak who ran the local store. Back then, to me, it was like buying a house. I had to make payments on it.

Q: Did you typically play that Gibson Heritage on stage in the clubs?

A: No, I didn't want to take the chance of ruining it so I usually took two guitars with me. A Yamaha that I didn't worry too much about and an Ovation. I was playing the Ovation one night when my guitar strap broke and the strap and the guitar went bouncing across the stage. I just kept on singing. Oddly enough it didn't hurt that Ovation one bit.

Q: When you worked the clubs, other than The Wilburn Brothers, did you have other celebrities coming around?

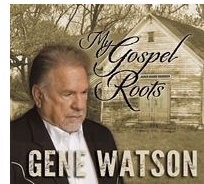
A: Well he didn't come just to see me but George Jones was the headliner one night for a club called The Wells Fargo in Houston and I was the opening act. Jones always brought two guitars on stage and that night he broke strings on both of them so he had to borrow my guitar. I was thrilled to see him up on stage wearing my guitar strap and using my guitar. I used to have a photo of that but not sure where that is now. He had a song he'd written called "Tonight I Just Don't Give A Damn" that didn't do well on the radio charts but today is considered a classic. I made him sing that song twice that night.



"Most Of All Why"



"Just At Dawn"



"Help Me"



"Tonight I Just Don't Give A Damn"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0q223jSH89U>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_xi78s2LW0

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esHqOsHTHLs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-OTPB2Vz70>

2020 TOUR SCHEDULE

| Date | Venue | City & State |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| September 3rd | Dothan Opera House | Dothan, Alabama |
| September 4th | The Nashville Palace | Nashville, Tennessee |
| September 5th | Anderson Music Hall | Hiawassee, Georgia |
| September 6th | Social Circle Theater | Social Circle, Georgia |
| September 11th | Azteca Event Hall | Amarillo, Texas |
| September 18th | Old Town Theater | Huntsville, Texas |
| September 19th | Hardy Murphy Coliseum | Ardmore, Oklahoma |
| September 26th | Sugar Creek Casino | Hinton, Oklahoma |
| October 1st | Red River Valley Fair-Main Stage | Paris, Texas |
| October 3rd | Mill Town Music Hall | Bremen, Georgia |
| October 8th | Clay Cooper Theater | Branson, Missouri |
| October 10th | Walhalla Civic Center | Walhalla, South Carolina |
| October 15th | The Palace Theater | Crossville, Tennessee |
| October 16th & 17th | Kentucky Opry | Benton, Kentucky |
| October 23rd | The Mansion Theater | Branson, Missouri |
| October 31st | Music City Theater | Linden, Texas |
| November 5th | Blue Gate Performing Arts Center | Shipshewana, Indiana |
| November 7th | The Mansion Theater | Branson, Missouri |
| November 13th & 14th | Liberty Showcase | Liberty, North Carolina |
| November 15th | Harvester Performance Center | Rocky Mount, Virginia |
| November 20th | Country Tonite Theater | Pigeon Forge, Tennessee |
| December 4th | Main Street Crossing | Tomball, Texas |
| December 5th | Honky Tonk Texas Dancehall | Silsbee, Texas |
| December 17th | Arena Theater | Houston, Texas |
| December 18th | Margaritaville Casino | Bossier City, Louisiana |
| December 20th | WinStar World Casino & Resort | Thackerville, Oklahoma |

ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

2021 TOUR SCHEDULE

| Date | Venue | City & State |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------|
| | 2021 | |
| January 15th | Edna Boykin Cultural Center | Wilson, North Carolina |
| January 16th | Newberry Opera House | Newberry, South Carolina |
| February 5th | The Park Theater | McMinnville, Tennessee |
| March 12th | Strawberry Festival | Plant City, Florida |
| March 27th | The Ritz Theater | Wellington, Texas |
| April 8th | Sisseton Performing Arts Center | Sisseton, South Dakota |
| April 9th | Wild Rose Casino | Emmetsburg, Iowa |
| April 10th | Windstone Entertainment Center | Jefferson City, Missouri |
| April 30th | Little Roy & Lizzie Fest | Lincolnton, Georgia |
| May 8th | Red Barn Convention Center | Winchester, Ohio |
| May 16th | American Music Theater | Lancaster, Pennsylvania |
| May 22nd | Riverwind Casino | Norman, Oklahoma |
| June 5th | The Coyote Store | Gail, Texas |
| July 30th | The Paramount | Abilene, Texas |
| July 31st | Greenville Municipal Auditorium | Greenville, Texas |
| October 23rd & 24th | Old Dominion Barn Dance at Beacon Theater | Hopewell, Virginia |

ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE



Be sure to visit the fan based Gene Watson website to view this new peer quote from Randy Travis!

<https://gene-watson.com/index.php/peers/peers-2020/andy-travis.html>



Still mourning the passing of good friend and great guitar player, Jimmy Capps.

TRIVIA CONTEST WINNER!

Congratulations to Kaye Flowers, who submitted the winning entry for our last trivia contest question: The question : Other than Rhonda Vincent, name someone Gene has recorded with . Possible Answer(s): Connie Smith, George Jones, Vince Gill, Mark Chesnutt, Trace Adkins, Lee Ann Womack, Alison Krauss, Anita Stapleton, Tammy Wynette and others. For your chance to win an autographed tee shirt, just answer the trivia question sent to Fan Club Members only and send the correct answer to: GeneWatsonMusic@hotmail.com.

If you are reading this and not a registered member of Gene Watson's Fan Club, just sign up at www.GeneWatsonMusic.com. Only Fan Club members get the Trivia Question!

Adkins Publicity

1618 16th Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37212



Scott Adkins

www.adkinspublicity.com

Representing
Gene Watson

BATTLE ARTIST AGENCY



To book Gene Watson for an event in your area contact:

Rob Battle at Battle Artist Agency at

1-615-368-7433 or by email at: rbattleartist@gmail.com

Official website



www.GeneWatsonMusic.com

Facebook



www.facebook.com/GeneWatsonMusic

Twitter



www.twitter.com/GeneWatsonmusic

Fan-based Website



www.Gene-Watson.com

Instagram



www.instagram.com/GeneWatsonMusic

Fan Forum



www.GeneWatsonFans/proboards.com

Follow Gene Watson on social media! Click on icons!