

# John Lee Sanders – Artist One-Sheet

**Multi-instrumentalist, Composer, Big band Arranger,**

**Saxophone, Guitar, Piano, vocalist, and Emmy nominated composer,**

John Lee Sanders comes from the deep roots of jazz, blues and roots music through his early years in the Mississippi Delta, Alabama, the Bayous of Louisiana, and The plains of Texas. John Lee has a universal gift to reach audiences from a broad and diverse musical spectrum.

With blues at the core, he has evolved a complex musical gumbo, with the flavors of Americana, Rock, Gospel, Pop, Jazz, R&B, Soul, Country, classical, with a deep love of the traditions, and culture of New Orleans. John received a degree in classical and jazz composition from the University of North Texas, and the University of Louisiana, and Film Scoring at San Jose State University. John has 15 CD releases since 1995, and learned record production from Grammy Producer of the year, **Narada Michael Walden**, the most successful record producer of the 80s and 90s.

He comes from a gifted Memphis musical family, including his mom's cousin who worked with WC Handy, father of the blues. His aunt lived only a few doors down from **Elvis Presley**. In his grandma's neighborhood, the birthplace of Aretha Franklin, in Memphis, where Al Green recorded some of the greatest soul music of all time. He spent his formative teen years in Birmingham, Ala, whose great Gospel Quartet traditions later help form the Motown Vocal Sound. Birmingham concert promoters in the early 60s billed 13 year old "Little John" as Birmingham's answer to "Little Stevie Wonder", Upon graduation, John left Texas & Louisiana with the Bay Area legendary band, **Uncle Rainbow** in 1977, upon a production contract with the Late Michael Hossack of the **Doobie Brothers**. On the band's first visit to Hollywood for recording, John Lee surprised everyone, auditioned for **the Gong Show**, and won!

John signed a large recording contract in 1980 with **Rod Stewart's**, Riva Records. From 1977, until the present, John Lee works in the studios with hundreds of CDs demos, commercials, soundtracks, including a **2007 Emmy nomination for song of the year**.

A gifted composer/lyricist, in November 2014, John won **Best blues CD, German Music Critics Award**. He has a 2004 Blues music Award Nomination for song of the year, 2007 Emmy nomination, song of the year, 3 Canadian Music Awards. His childhood encounters with the Key players who shaped a generation, **Elvis Presley, George Wallace, Richard Nixon and Dr. Martin Luther King**, read like a surreal "Forrest Gump" epic of the Blues, that influenced the songs and stories of this gifted performer and composer.

John Lee has shared the stage, opened for, recorded or toured with some of the legends last 50 years, including **Jimmy Page, Stevie Wonder, Kris Kristofferson, Willie Nelson, Starship, Bill Withers, Chuck Berry, Bonnie Raitt, Freddie King,**

**John Lee Hooker, Tower of Power**, and many more. His songs have been recorded by **Eddie Kendricks** of the **Temptations**, an unreleased cut from **Aretha Franklin**, and **Marsha Ball**, who received a Grammy nomination, for blues CD of the year, with the hit single from Sanders. He is a **2012 Canadian Maple Blues award nominee** for Piano Player of the Year! His voice and music are used in advertisements for clients such as Wal-Mart, Nissan, Apple Computer, CBS Television, The Sierra Club, and many more.

Sanders' touring schedule takes him to many of the major Jazz and Blues festivals of Europe, and Western Canada. His technical virtuosity on Piano, Vocals, Saxophone, with an "A" list touring band, that frequently includes a horn section, he has been one of the highlights of many performing art center concert series throughout Canada and Europe.

The Year 2012-13, John Lee played some of the most impressive venues in North America, opening act for **Bonnie Raitt's Western Canada tour**, where she told the crowd in Vancouver, **"John Lee is one of my musical heroes, a quadruple threat, Louisiana's loss is Canada's gain"**. He recently performed with Bonnie at the **Vienna State Opera House in Vienna Austria**, and was on the short list for a keyboard player to replace the legendary Jon Cleary in her band.

Recent performances include tour of Europe, with the **National Jazz Orchestra of Croatia**, performing some of his greatest works, that he arranged for a 22 piece jazz orchestra, in outdoor music festivals with crowds in the 5,000 range

Since 2009, John has performed yearly at the **US Library of Congress for the House of Representatives**, with the greatest songwriters of American music, including **Carly Simon, Randy Newman, Stephan Schwartz, Hal David, Alan Bergman, Bill Withers, Johnny Mandel, Jimmy Webb, Paul Williams, Heart, Ashford & Simpson**, and other megahit songwriters. John Lee received rave reviews from **then Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi**, after hearing John back all of these artists on keys, sax, guitar and vocals. In 2012, John Lee was the first musician in History, to perform on a legendary voyage through the Canadian



In January 2014, John Lee Performed at the **Grammy's with Paul Williams**, who won "Album of the Year" with the **Daft Punk Cd, "Random Access Memories"**

**Between the Danube and the Mississippi:**

*John Lee Sanders, brought a great end to the 2013, 24th annual Ingolstadt Germany Blues fest. He is comparable with Dr. John, Allen Toussaint and Ivan Neville. The standing room crowd followed John Lee unconditionally, deep into the humid swampy back streets of the Crescent City, the world of Mardi Gras, on his journey through the dive bars of Tremé, Uptown, Downtown, Mardi Gras Indians, a soulful mix of Cajun, zydeco, Gospel, funk, blues and swinging Old Time Jazz – improvisational, and tight at the same time. John Lee Sanders is a highly creative artist, a great musician and above all, an outstanding composer. a concert that will go down in the annals. **Ingolstadt Blues Festival. Donau Kurrier, Ingolstadt Germany***

**The pianist/saxman combines elements of Dr. John with those of several of the best piano based artists of the last 20 years, like Elton John, Stevie Wonder, Billy Joel, and Leon Russell for example and holds his own with all of 'em. When their style comes out of John Lee Sanders he's transformed it into something I like a lot." Blue Suede News Magazine"**

*"One of my Musical Heroes" Bonnie Raitt, "John, you're a Treasure!" Huey Lewis.*

*"Here's what I love about John Lee Sanders, His voice. Raw. Real. Sweet. Tart. An instrument of tremendous emotional and spiritual range. His writing. His hooks. His stories. His deep Louisiana roots. His powerful connection to the fertile soil..... His grit, his grooves..... His honesty. His haunting cry, his courageous assault on anything false. His music, his singing, his aesthetic vision are more than good; .....they're flat-out great. His songs, full-bodied and blood-washed, are rooted in reality. He reminds us that blues are concerned with neither nostalgia nor self-pity. John Lee Sanders' blues are about nothing less a renewal of strength, a resurrection of the human spirit, a projection of hard-earned hope and a declaration of extravagant love. **David Ritz, Grammy Award winning music biographer, of among others, Ray Charles, B.B. King, Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin and Etta James. He co-composed "Sexual Healing." With Marvin Gaye***

*John Lee Sanders, is a music industry veteran who is a multiple talent on vocals, songwriting, keyboards, tenor sax & guitar. Sanders has some 9 CDs in his solo discography, but news of that treasure trove has been slow to trickle east. This disc could change that. **Bucket Full Of Blues"** is one of the better titles around and it's as good as it sounds, a tremendous opener. If you like New Orleans funk with a goodly helping of blues, this one's for you. **Maple Blues Magazine, Toronto Blues Society***

***Jazzeit Magazine, of Vienna Austria** wrote recently "This is exactly what it sounds like when Blues is allowed to be fun. A listening joy from the first number to the last. John Lee Sanders is not only a first rate singer/songwriter, but also a pianist and saxophonist and overall, it seems, a specialist for all that is sophisticated musicianship and entertainment."*

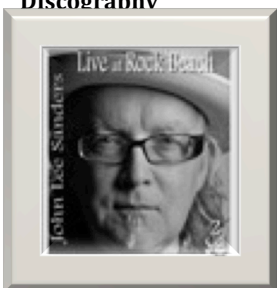
*"You did an amazing job and made my job so much easier. All the vocal complexities you added just really elevated the songs. Really great work John. Bravo on Your work"*

*Doc Goes Hollywood CD, Western Canada Music Award Nomination, 2009,*

**John Lee Sanders & The William Ross Orchestra**

**William Ross, Music Director, 2007, 2011, 2013 Academy Awards, Producer & Music director for Barbara Streisand, Josh Groban Andrea Bocelli, Michael Bublé. Film Composer, Titanic, Harry Potter**

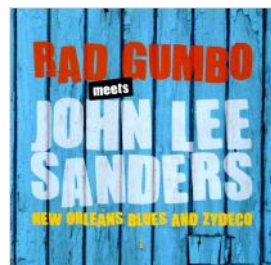
**Discography**



Live at Rock Beach 2008



Bucket full of Blues  
3 Canadian Music Awards



2014, Blues Recording of the Year  
German Music Critics Association.

more info at [johnleesanders.com](http://johnleesanders.com)  
PO Box 2244  
Orange Beach, AL

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