

John's Circuitous Path through a Distinct Fusion of Literary, Musical and Geographic Influences!

Academic Aspirations

Remember what the 18th century Scottish poet Robert Burns said about [*“the best laid plans?”*](#)

John moved to [Pittsburgh](#) to attend graduate school at [Duquesne University](#) where he specialized in contemporary French and German [philosophy](#).

Although John studied 20th century authors Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Adorno, Foucault, Habermas and Derrida, along with classics by Plato, Aristotle and Augustine, he developed an enduring fascination with the 19th century German philosopher [Friedrich Nietzsche](#).

John discovered a kindred spirit in the writings of Nietzsche who, with great style and confidence, extolls the unlimited power and potential of human creativity while exuding a passionate enthusiasm and love of life.

Inspired in part by Nietzsche's [affirmative](#) celebration of life and his vehement call to say ["Yes!"](#) without qualification, John indulged his love of music and began playing open mike nights in the Squirrel Hill section of Pittsburgh.

John's life-long passion for music eventually overtook his scholarly aspirations and he established a full-time career as a performing musician. After completion of his M.A., he went on to front one of the region's most popular *“party”* bands.

Now, on his new CD *Right Place, Right Time*, John writes evocative lyrics about poignant issues and thought provoking themes: the inexplicable occurrence of chance meetings and precious moments of grace, constant change, the mystical nature of love, optimism in the face of uncertainty, the universal power of music, humility and compromise, indiscretion in the age of digital surveillance and the necessity to let go of the past.