

John's Bio

Out of the industrial heartland of America, a singer-songwriter forges his own musical fusion...

Many remember Pittsburgh as the smoke-ridden capital of America's industrial revolution.

However, as a Pittsburgh-based singer-songwriter, John McDonald's artistic energy and renewal feeds off what has recently been called "[*The Rust Belt Revival.*](#)" With a flourishing start-up scene and a vibrant marketplace of ideas, creativity and entrepreneurship are booming in post-industrial Pittsburgh.

A Bostonian by birth, John enrolled in Duquesne University's internationally recognized Department of Philosophy with the intention of launching an academic career specializing in contemporary European thought. Fate had a different plan. Upon completion of an M.A., John went on to front one of the region's most popular "party" bands.

Now John McDonald is about to release his first full-length CD as a solo artist.

Known for his high-energy performances, John McDonald blends reggae, rock and world beat music. The result is a feel-good, up-tempo musical fusion that combines tropical instrumentation, world beat rhythms and evocative lyrics tinged with poignant themes.

So what do you get out of the heart of America's rust belt from an artist energized by the innovative re-emergence of his adopted city, Pittsburgh?

A shot of hard-driving, percussive rock mixed with world-flavored rhythms and a dash of calypso and reggae, inspired by an improbable concoction of literary and musical influences from Nietzsche and Camus to Paul Simon and Bob Marley, John McDonald's CD *Right Place, Right Time*.

Although John still loves a great party, this collection of songs represents a new chapter as a solo artist, delivering profound but fun, radio-friendly songs with thought-provoking lyrical themes. In a sense, John McDonald crystallizes his philosophy of life through his music.