

John's Circuitous Path through a Distinct Fusion of Literary, Musial & Geographic Influences

Trop Rock Innovator

Inspired by artists like Bob Marley, David Byrne, Jimmy Buffett, Paul Simon, Peter Gabriel and Sting, who integrate various styles and elements of music from tropical destinations into rock, John started identifying his music as "[*Trop Rock*](#)" in [1994](#), an abbreviated and catchier version of [*tropical rock*](#).

In particular, Paul Simon's [seminal](#) 1986 album [*Graceland*](#) and 1990 [*Rhythm of the Saints*](#), opened up John's appreciation of the globalizing influence of tropical music on rock and pop and his fascination with the geography of music.

In 1994, John recruited renowned percussionist and ethnomusicologist [Dr. Kwasi Jayourba](#) and formed one of the region's "[*premier party bands*](#)," John McDonald & the Mango Men.

John & his Mango Men went on to become a staple in regional [concert](#) venues as the opening band for a diverse list of contemporary and classic artists including America, [The Beach Boys](#) and [Smokey Robinson](#).

John's late 90's CD *High Frequency Hope and Heartfelt Vibration* may have been the first CD self-consciously described and specifically designated as a distinctly "*Trop Rock*" album.

In 2000, Cleveland disc jockey Dennis King, one of the earliest enthusiasts to embrace *High Frequency Hope*, launched the [Island Time Radio Show](#) on WBWC, the longest-running radio program dedicated to Trop Rock.

[Beach Front Radio](#), based in Maryland under the auspices of author Andy Forsythe, is now a full-service, internet radio station, with daily programming that offers multiple formats featuring all things Trop Rock.

In 2012, Andy published the first attempt to comprehensively research and catalogue the fledging genre in [*Trop Rock Songs: Stories and Tales from the Singer/Songwriters*](#).

To John's amazement, what started out in the mid 1990's as a short but handy, self-stylized description of his music for talent buyers, turned out to be a stepping stone and a platform for a global community of independent singer-songwriters, musicians and fans.

In 2005, John was characterized as a "[*Trop Rock innovator.*](#)"

Looking back, John didn't anticipate his coinage - Trop Rock - would migrate and eventually designate a distinct niche and sub-category of music with its own [organization](#), crystalizing into an international network of radio programs, web sites, venues, festivals and house concerts.