

Pat Alger

BIOGRAPHY/DISCOGRAPHY

BORN IN LONG ISLAND CITY, NEW YORK but raised in the small southern town of LaGrange, Georgia, Pat Alger came to songwriting from a south by north direction. His father was Brooklyn born but his Mother was from LaGrange and as Alger recalls: “we happily spent all our summers there until we finally moved for good when I was 7. It was the best thing my parents ever did for me”. As a sophomore at LaGrange High School, he taught himself to play guitar and began writing songs immediately. “I just seemed to have a knack for it, it was in my DNA somehow”, Alger said recently. “I wrote parodies of popular songs and played guitar and sang folk music in several local groups around town.” In the late sixties, trying to earn money to continue his education at Georgia Tech, Pat began performing original and traditional material in the acoustic music clubs of Atlanta – clubs like *The 12th Gate*, *The Bottom of the Barrel*, *The Bistro & the Great Southeast Music Hall* – intimate places where the music was the main attraction. “It was a great time in Atlanta to be starting out and an excellent way to find out if your songs were any good. The audiences were loyal, supportive and very forgiving - they gave me enough confidence to make me think I might have a chance at a career in the music business.”

On the Southeastern club and college circuit, Pat often shared the stage with such artists as Jerry Jeff Walker, Steve Goodman, The Earl Scruggs Revue, Jonathan Edwards and Jimmy Buffet. “I was always listening back-stage to what these guys were doing and I learned a lot about what makes a song work from them.” What came natural to him - the interplay between down-to-earth language and memorable melody would in time bring him much success as a popular songwriter.

IN 1973 PAT MIGRATED TO WOODSTOCK, NEW YORK becoming part of that legendary musical landscape eventually recording and performing with the celebrated Woodstock Mountains Revue, a casual musical conglomeration that included, at one time or another, the singer-songwriters John Sebastian, Eric Andersen, Paul Butterfield, Rory Block, Happy and Artie Traum, John Herald, Roly Salley, Jim Rooney & Bill Keith. Together they made 3 critically acclaimed albums for the then fledgling Rounder Records label. Later he formed a duo with acoustic jazz guitarist Artie Traum, recording a well-received album on Rounder that led to several tours of Europe and the United States.

AFTER A SHORT STINT IN THE BOSTON AREA and a couple of years trying to break into the songwriting mainstream in Manhattan, Pat finally scored his first hit in 1980 with Livingston Taylor, James Taylor’s younger brother. The song, *FIRST TIME LOVE* became a Pop and AC hit and with that success under his belt, Pat headed south once again, this time to try his luck in Nashville.

MUSIC CITY TURNED OUT TO BE THE ‘PROMISED LAND’ - a town that celebrated the art of the song and where the songwriter, if not the star, was the center of gravity for the music business. Exploring Nashville’s brand of song collaboration, while fine-tuning his natural skills, Pat soon blossomed into a successful songwriter. Early on his songs were recorded by such classic country artists as Mickey Gilley, George Hamilton IV and Dolly Parton as well as legendary pop artists Brenda Lee, The Everly Brothers and Peter, Paul & Mary.

ULTIMATELY, PAT HIT THE TOP OF THE COUNTRY CHARTS IN 1988 with Kathy Mattea's version of *GOIN' GONE*, a song previously recorded by Texas singer Nanci Griffith. Other # 1 hits followed, including: *SHE CAME FROM FT. WORTH* also by Kathy Mattea; *SMALL TOWN SATURDAY NIGHT* by Hal Ketchum & Trisha Yearwood's *LIKE WE NEVER HAD A BROKEN HEART*. His songwriting collaboration with Garth Brooks yielded 4 # 1 singles for the mega-star - *THE THUNDER ROLLS*, *UNANSWERED PRAYERS*, *WHAT SHE'S DOING NOW* & *THAT SUMMER* - remarkably going on to collectively sell well over 60 million albums.

OTHER HITS INCLUDE: *TRUE LOVE* by Don Williams; *LONE STAR STATE OF MIND* & *ONCE IN A VERY BLUE MOON* by Nanci Griffith; *I'M TAKIN' MY TIME* by Brenda Lee; *CALLOUSED HANDS* by Marc Collie; *A FEW GOOD THINGS REMAIN* & *SEEDS* by Kathy Mattea and the AC hit *CITY LIGHTS* by Livingston and James Taylor. In recent years, his songs have been recorded by Ian Tyson, Tom Russell, Chely Wright, Tim O'Brien, Maura O'Connell, The Seldom Scene - *Irish singers* - Mary Black, Frances Black, Paul Brady & Kieran Goss and the great bluegrass singer Claire Lynch. His song, *THE MAN SHE THINKS I AM*, is featured on the 2006 Canadian Juno Award Country Album Of The Year: George Canyon's, *Somebody Wrote Love*. His song *GENUINE LOVE* was the leadoff single on Canadian roots singer Sean Hogan's album *Southern Sessions*. Pat's song *NOTHIN'S GONNA BRING ME DOWN (AT CHRISTMAS TIME)* was the featured single on Randy Travis' first holiday album in 18 years, *Songs Of The Season*. Four of the hits on Garth Brooks multi-million selling "Ultimate Hits Collection" by Garth Brooks were written with Pat.

AN ACCOMPLISHED GUITARIST, Pat played acoustic guitar on several of his hits including: *THE THUNDER ROLLS* by Garth Brooks; *LIKE WE NEVER HAD A BROKEN HEART* by Trisha Yearwood; *A FEW GOOD THINGS REMAIN* & *SEEDS* by Kathy Mattea and *ONCE IN A VERY BLUE MOON* & *LONE STAR STATE OF MIND* by Nanci Griffith. As a solo performer he toured as the opening act for the Everly Brothers in the U.S. and Europe on their much anticipated EB 84 Reunion tour in 1984 and for many years after.

PAT CONTINUES TO LIVE IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE WITH HIS WIFE SUSAN, a Ringgold, Georgia native and their three adult children. Celebrating over 45 years in the music business, Pat Alger remains one of the most respected songwriters in a town where respect comes hard. In demand as a performer in the Nashville songwriter scene, Pat also tours other musical outposts such as Ireland, Canada & the Sundance Film Festival. As a 2-term President of The Nashville Songwriters Association International, he was a highly effective advocate for creators in the ongoing battle for intellectual property rights protection. Pat often mentors young aspiring songwriters and has led the ASCAP Country Writers Workshop in Nashville several times. He was the featured guest on the inaugural episode of the TV show *Song Speak: Conversations on the Art and Craft of Songwriting* produced by the Middle Tennessee State University music business degree program.

IN 2010 PAT ALGER WAS ELECTED TO THE NASHVILLE SONGWRITERS HALL OF FAME. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame Foundation and was instrumental in organizing the newly designed Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame space at Nashville's remarkable new Music City Center. In July he was elected President of the Nashville chapter of SAG-AFTRA. Pat currently has the title-cut of pop legend John Oates' latest project "Good Road To Follow".

Career Highlights

- ♦ 3 solo albums - *True Love and Other Short Stories & Seeds* - on Sugar Hill Records plus *Notes and Grace Notes* on Liberty Records.
- ♦ 26 combined ASCAP performance awards as a writer or publisher.
- ♦ 1991 - Songwriter of the Year for Nashville Songwriters Association International; Radio & Records Magazine Songwriter of the Year; Music Row magazine Songwriter of the Year & Cashbox magazine Songwriter of the Year
- ♦ 1991 - Song of the Year - *Small Town Saturday Night* - Radio & Records Magazine; Song of the Year - *The Thunder Rolls* - The Gavin Report
- ♦ 1991 - *The Thunder Rolls* wins CMA Video of the Year Award
- ♦ 1991 & 1992 - Country Music Association Triple Play Award for 3 #1 records in a single year
- ♦ 1992 - ASCAP Country Songwriter of the Year
- ♦ 1992 - National Jukebox Association ASCAP Songwriter of the Year (with Garth Brooks)
- ♦ 1993 - Pat's album *Seeds* nominated for best Folk Album at Nashville Music Awards
- ♦ 1998 - President's Choice Award - Nashville Songwriters Association International
- ♦ 1999 - Co-wrote and produced with legendary songwriter Harlan Howard *Hockey Tonk*, the theme song for the inaugural seasons of the Nashville Predators hockey team
- ♦ 2001 - Produced and performed on *A Songwriter's Tribute to Garth Brooks* for VFR Records - one of the biggest selling independent records of that year
- ♦ 2004 - Produced and performed on *A Songwriter's Tribute to George Strait* for Compadre Records
- ♦ 2005 - *Unanswered Prayers* voted # 6 in Country Music Television's top 100 Love Songs
- ♦ 2010 - Nashville Songwriter's Hall of Fame Inductee
- ♦ 2011 - *Unanswered Prayers* is made into Lifetime Network Movie
- ♦ 2013 - Chairman Nashville Songwriters Foundation
- ♦ 2013 - President Nashville chapter of SAG-AFTRA
- ♦ 2013 - Georgia Music Hall of Fame Inductee