

Bush 'Flew South' to Find Record Deal

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Inspiration drives people to follow their dreams. Some aim to become firefighters. Some pine to own their own business. Then, there are those like Charleston's own Eddie Bush, who have dreamt of being a musician since the first time they heard KISS tell the world to "rock 'n' roll all night and party everyday."

Before he was 10, he had his eyes set on moving the crowd with his music. With a desire to command the stage like musicians Prince and Eddie Van Halen, Bush picked up a guitar. During the beginning of his career, he followed the lead of his guitar heroes, but like most musicians he discovered a new direction.

Sharing the spotlight with musicians Royal Reed and Chris Roberts, Bush brings his unique take to his new rock vocal trio, One Flew South.

As of this moment, the ink is drying on the deal that Bush and his fellow One Flew South members signed with Decca Records, the previous home of Bing Crosby, Louis Armstrong, The Beatles, operatic sensation Andrea Bocelli and a list of other high profile singers. One Flew South plans on releasing a new CD in July of this year.

For those who remember the rocking, guitar-driven Eddie Bush band of the '90s, his current role in a vocal trio may come as a surprise.

Talking from Nashville while working on his music, Bush is quick to agree that his new band is a departure, but he says the change was more organic than it might seem.

To fans of your music from the '90s when you formed the Eddie Bush Group, what is the difference in your music between now and then?

In 1991, I was gunning to become like my many guitar heroes, a gun-slinging player who just happened to sing. It was an "anything goes" attitude in those days, no holds barred.

I released "A Piece Of Confusion" in '92, and then started really focusing on my song writing with "Hands in Pocket" in '95, the self-titled "EBG" album in '96 and "A Work In Progress" in 2002. I took a shot at the Nashville way of thinking with my first national release, "Eddie Bush," in 2005. In a weird way, each of these efforts prepared me to become a member of One Flew South, a vocal trio, which definitely features elements from the many past years of music making.

How about your look, how has it changed?

Regarding my image? Well, I've been guilty of sporting two-toned mullets, perms, the long hair-in-your-face plan, spandex pants, parachute pants, painted jeans, a famously cool Citadel parade jacket and all sorts of colorful additions in the form of jewelry, scarves and the like. These days, I work out 5 days a week with Tim Church at "V," (downtown Charleston). I watch my diet, I have help in the form of my wife, Carolyn, my close friend Karen Tallier, and label and management folks in the categories of hair and clothing. Much different outcome.

Now that you have been signed, what are you able to divulge?

One Flew South signed with the legendary Decca Records, a division of Universal Music Group, on January 29. We are currently writing for our first disc with our producer, Grammy winner Marcus Hummon, and several other well known writers.

What are some of your best memories of playing over the years?

That's tough. Doing multiple shows with heroes like Eric Johnson, Ted Nugent, Sammy Hagar, Keith Urban, Cheap Trick, REO Speedwagon and Blue Oyster Cult. Playing "The Thin Blue Line" on Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends." Performing in front of 30,000 police officers and families at the capitol building in Washington, D.C., and meeting President Bush. Playing the '96 Olympics, singing at Darlington Raceway on national TV, and getting to meet Jeff Gordon. The many nights of great music with all the former members of the EBG (Eddie Bush Group). Oh, and seeing my video on GAC for the first time.

Any jobs you had to hold down to pay the bills during all the music making?

Pizza delivery, steak cook, record retail, music instrument retail, auto parts stocker, video store clerk.

How'd you link up with your current members of One Flew South?

Marcus Hummon was friends with Chris Roberts, who knew Royal Reed. ... They were looking for a third voice, that played guitar. Marcus was invited to my first Nashville showcase, and thankfully, he showed up. When we got together to sing that first time, it was truly magical. Just over a year and a half later, we're signed.

Every musician has some negative experiences, what kept you plugging away?

Every time I experienced a victory of any kind, be it a good review, a full house, a good payday, a song getting airplay, opening for bigger acts, I used that event as proof positive that I was headed in the right direction. In short, I refused to give up, no matter what the odds.

Over the years you've had several influences. Who were they and why were they influences?

Queen, for the great singing, playing, and fantastic over the top entertainment.

Kiss, for teaching me about the importance of writing catchy melodies. Osmond Brothers, for my first taste with real vocal harmony. All the inspiring writers, like Rickie Lee Jones, Bruce Hornsby, Tears for Fears, the Eagles.

Of course, who can forget the many great guitarists: Steve Vai, Joe Satriani, Tony Macalpine, Brad Paisley, Gary Moore and John Sykes. Oh, and the greatest musical inspiration of all, the Beatles.

Finally, you're a music teacher what's that like?

Teaching guitar at our studio, "Music Unlimited," has taught me as much about life through the eyes of others as it has taught my students the art of guitar. I now have to skip teaching about a week at a time, and yet when I come home, my students are there, raring to go. How fortunate am I? I believe that my current and past musical adventures are a great learning tool for many. ... Anything you are willing to work hard for is worth all the effort you can give. I believe that this message hits loud and clear when the guy that works with them is out there pushing for his own dreams. It's a great, real time example for the kids, as well as everyone else. A lot of the kids have dreams of a career in music, and I hope to make their journey a bit easier, by telling them about the many mistakes I've made along the way. There really is nothing quite like watching someone go from beginner to real player under your tutelage. It's a heartwarming experience that I'm very thankful for.