

## **Bush Might Find Success in the Gray Area**

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It's all about the gray areas.

In the early 1990s, the Seattle scene merged classic rock, punk and heavy metal into a highly successful gray area called grunge.

More recently, in a movement loosely categorized as rap-rock, bands such as Limp Bizkit and Linkin Park merged heavy rock with urban beats and rhythms to create another vastly popular gray area. Both Jazz-fusion and alt-country also meet somewhere in the middle of two differing musical genres.

Now, one of Charleston's most prolific and talented musicians, Eddie Bush, is entering into a gray area of his own.

Bush, who was the opening act for guitar virtuoso Eric Johnson, has opened for Ted Nugent, 38 Special, Sammy Hagar, Cheap Trick and REO Speedwagon (and best known for his guitar wizardry), is infusing his sound with a little bit of roots and a whole lot of Nashville.

Is Eddie Bush going country? Well, yes and no. Remember, it's a gray area.

Saturday night, during a headlining gig at The Plex, Bush and his new band, which features Scott Banevich (of Edwin McCain's band) on bass, Paolo Liccardi on drums and Bryn Wilson on guitar, will release two new CDs.

The first disc, a full-length effort entitled, "A Work in Progress," will be pure rock — Eddie Bush as you've always known him. The second, shorter CD, "The Southern Sampler," serves to introduce listeners to a new Eddie Bush.

For Bush, the transition from rock to country has been, and will continue to be, a gradual one.

Perhaps the pivot upon which that transition has been turning can be found in "Spirit of America," a song Bush penned in response to the tragedies of Sept. 11. The tune was written on Sept. 16, was recorded on Sept. 17 and by Sept. 19, was all over local radio.

Traveling via the Internet as an MP3 file, the song took on a life of its own. It was played on radio stations from New York to California. It was featured on the Howard Stern show. It even reached our soldiers on board the USS Kittyhawk and the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

Eddie Bush had scored an unanticipated, and somewhat reluctant, hit.

"I was very unsure about recording and releasing the song. I didn't want to seem opportunistic," said Bush.

But the opportunity to touch so many people with a reassuring song during a time of crisis assuaged any doubts Bush might have initially had.

One of the radio stations spinning "Spirit" on heavy rotation was local country station WEZL. After realizing that country music is one of the few currently popular formats that allows for well-crafted guitar playing and for telling stories through song, Bush approached The Plex about opening for country artist Keith Urban.

It was at that gig that Bush realized that by blending country music with his tried and true, solid guitar playing and songwriting, he might very well find just the niche he has been looking for.

Recently, Bush embarked on a journey to Nashville to record with some of Music City's hottest musicians.

Bush has no plans to make Nashville home, however. But given his talent, tenacity and dedication to his craft, Bush will most likely be spending a good deal of time on that long and winding gray area between Charleston and Nashville.