

[Pasar a contenido](#)

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[john Arthur Martinez: A Review](#)

Publicado en [John Arthur Martinez](#), [Texas](#) por alvarezgalloso en Mayo 18, 2010

john Arthur Martinez has won the 2010 Texas Music Awards Record of the Year because of his latest release “Purgatory Road” and one of its top songs “Utopia”. The album was his first with his new label Apache Ranch Records.

The album is the result of a long career as a singer and his style of weaving together the different cultures that make up the musical mosaic culture of Texas. He is an interpreter of Americana, Country, Latin music whose inspiration was from diverse artists such as Carlos Santana, James Taylor, and Dan Fogelberg among others.

He also received inspiration from the rich environment of Texas such as listening to music from mariachis in his family’s house to the country and rock prevalent in the Lone Star State. While he studied at Texas State University and the University of Arizona [which is located in Tuscon], the music and love of it took him away from a potential career as a teacher and tennis coach.

john Arthur Martinez was once asked the question of why a lower case letter to identify him. The response was a down to earth one in which he states that it was based on people knowing him by his middle name since his kindergarten period. He also talked about how there were too many children with the name John in his class.

The album “Purgatory Road” took a long time to record taking into account the music that was composed. The song “Que No Puede Ver” was composed by Mr. Martinez in the decade of the 1980’s while songs such as “The Ride”, “Cobalt Blue” as well as “Thunder and Lightning” were written in the 1990’s.

john Arthur Martinez has also recorded other albums such as “Spinning Our Wheels” with one of its greatest songs being the title song, “Amor Amor” with the greatest hit “Seguro Que Hell Yes”, “Stand Your Ground”, “Lone Starry Night”, “Live In New England” during which the people in New England responded in a positive fashion to “Frijoles Con Arroz”.

Frijoles Con Arroz is Spanish for Beans with Rice which is a staple food in Latin America and the US Latin Community. The people of New England also responded in a positive fashion to his rendition of the medley “Down In South Texas/La Bamba” in the famous “Live In New England” album.

He collaborated with another Texas artist Mike Blakely to record “Blakely/Martinez”. The album produced great songs such as “Midnight Blue”, “Two Hearts Are Better Than One”, and “Change Your Mind”. It was an unforgettable album. The album “Rodeo Night” was filled with great hits such as “What Good Is I Live You” and “All Hat And No Cattle”.

John Arthur Martinez has been all over the world and has performed in the capital of country music Nashville, Tennessee with Charley Pride and Carrie Underwood. He is also the recipient of the Grammy Award. He has not let the glory affect him as it has other artists.

He is still faithful to his family, friends, and home in Texas. He even wears a cowboy hat as a sign of reverence, respect, and love for the Lone Star State which is his home in heart, soul, and birth.

Etiquetado con: [John Arthur Martinez](#), [Texas](#)

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[John Arthur Martinez and Utopia TMA Record Of The Year 2010](#)

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The votes arrived at the 2010 Texas Music Awards in Marshall, Texas. The winner of the TMA Record of The Year 2010 Award was John Arthur Martinez. I had the honor of interviewing him when he was nominated for the award in the beginning of the year.

It is a pleasure to interview him again since it was an honor to interview him the first time. I also wanted to gauge how things have changed for this multifaceted singer who combines all of the music that exists in the Lone Star State to form a music that is pure and has stood the test of time

1. I would like to congratulate you on being awarded “Record of The Year” in the 2010 TMAs for “Utopia” on “Purgatory Road”. What were your initial feelings when you heard that you won Record Of The Year for 2010?

[john Arthur martinez] When I first learned that I had the Record of the Year for 2010 at the Texas Music Awards I was happy not only for myself, but for the songwriters, John Greenberg of the Mystiqueros, and Bill Murray of New York. Bill actually lived the words of the song “Utopia.”

2. What do you think were the reasons for being selected Record Of The Year for 2010?

[john Arthur martinez] I believe that “Utopia” was selected because of a combination of positive factors:

a. First of all, the sonic quality of the recording itself, a credit to producer Lew Curatolo, engineer Pete Greene and the studio team, which by the way included my friend and long-time collaborator, Mike Blakely on harmonies. I am pleased with the way Curatolo and Greene captured my vocals.

b. The story within the song and John Greenberg’s artful composition and melody.

c. Finally, I believe the team at Apache Ranch Records did a great job to make sure radio folks, journalists, and the music fans were aware of the record. On the Texas Chart and the Texas Regional Radio Report Utopia garnered approximately 10,000 spins and we received positive reviews from San Francisco to Austin to Nashville to London.

3. What will be your future plans after winning the award? Will you be going on tour or record more albums?

[john Arthur martinez] My label and I are discussing a follow-up CD to Purgatory Road, sparser, more acoustic, featuring my touring musicians. We’ll keep you posted on when it becomes available.

I would like to thank john Arthur Martinez for the taking the time to do the interview after receiving the TMA Record of the Year 2010 Award. I would like to wish him the best in his future as a singer/songwriter.

Etiquetado con: [Arte](#), [Cultura](#), [John Arthur Martinez](#), [Music](#), [Texas](#)

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John Arthur martinez and “Utopia”

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alvarezgalloso en Febrero 23, 2010

The road in the Texas Music Awards has produced more surprises and great songs in the year 2010. John Arthur martinez [martinez with a small m] is nominated for the Record of the Year Category for his work “Utopia”.

He was able to take time to talk with Now Public and I about his career and his work called “Utopia”. The following interview was done via E Mail between Florida and Texas.

1. Where you were born and how did you get started ?[john Arthur martinez] Austin, Texas on June 10th of 1961; I’m a late bloomer, but it was in my blood all along. My father was a drummer in both Tejano and Country bands in the 50’s, 60’s & early 70’s (the country band for which he played drums backed Freddie Fender during his tour through Austin).

2. What were your musical influences during your career?[john Arthur martinez] Living so close to Willie’s studio, Pedernales, I’d have to say Willie. But I had an uncle that turned me onto Creedence. I had older sisters that were into the 70’s singer-songwriter movement like James Taylor, Cat Stevens, Seals & Crofts, Jim Croce and more. I had a very close friend that would take me to hear cool music in Austin like Asleep at the Wheel, & Commander Cody, and touring shows like the Allman Brothers, Dave Mason, & Dire Straits. My mother had a Cuco Sanchez record I loved and Anonio Augilar. And there was a dance hall, the 281 Club that had Friday and Saturday country dances then a Sunday Spanish dance. Saturday nights I’d two-step; Sunday evenings I’d do the cumbia.

3. Your album “Purgatory Road” is great. What inspired you to do the album?[john Arthur martinez] a desire to do an edgier album focusing on Hill Country songwriters like myself. The title cut is based on the reality of the economic hardships many folks are undergoing. “What Good Is I Love You” is based on the realities of the perils of alcohol. “Closer To My Dream” is about the decisions my songwriter and I both made to pursue a musical path—two decisions which probably disappointed our families.

4. What can we do to recover our musical traditions as exemplified in “Purgatory Road”? [john Arthur martinez] I believe that folks like yourself are already doing it. You’re writing about it so music fans can discover artists like myself. I grateful that the struggles of major labels who release over processed cheese has led many to discover independent releases like Purgatory Road.

5. It appears that you are touring in Texas. Do you have plans to go on tours in other areas of the country or even abroad? [john Arthur martinez] I just finished a tour from Nashville through Knoxville to Manhattan to D.C. And 18 months ago I toured Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Belize and Mexico. So I get around from time to time. But as you know Texas is a whole nother country in an of itself with many performance oportunites. So I

do my share of gigs in Texas.

6. What can John Arthur Martinez offer that the Hollywood Establishment and other “mainstream” media cannot offer?[John Arthur Martinez] A connection to the roots of music that many ignore. On Purgatory Road I have a nod to the Tin Pan Alley Golden era in “When You Whisper In My Ear.” On previous albums like Lone Starry Night I’ve offered listeners western swing things like “A Girl Named Texas.” On both albums I’ve done bilingual tracks that the mainstream shy away from.

7. What was your initial reaction when you received the news about being nominated for an Award by the TMA [Texas Music Academy]?[John Arthur Martinez] I was definitely pleased and I admit perhaps a little disappointed because I thought my producer, Lew Curatolo deserved a nomination, and I thought the album as a whole might have a shot. But, let me tell you there is so much great music that in the end I was grateful for the “Utopia” nomination.

8. What is your recommendation to those who want to follow in your footsteps and become a singer and musician? [John Arthur Martinez] Son says to Father, “Dad when I grow up I want to be musician just like you!” Wife overhears and interrupts as she looks at Father, “Son you can’t do both!” That’s not far from the truth. But seriously, I just shared this advice with an aspiring singer-songwriter: play in tune, with great tone, through well-kept equipment, sing on pitch, perform exceptionally crafted songs, and engage your audience emotionally! See it’s simple.

10. Where can people buy “Purgatory Road”? [John Arthur Martinez]

www.johnarthurmartinez.net, mytexasmusic.com, itunes, Amazon.com, Indie stores like: Waterloo Records (Austin), Cactus Music (Houston), Atkins Gifts (Marble Falls) and many, many other stores.

Thank you for accepting my invitation to the interview and taking time to answer my questions. Best Wishes

[John Arthur Martinez] It was my pleasure. I appreciate your interest in my music

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