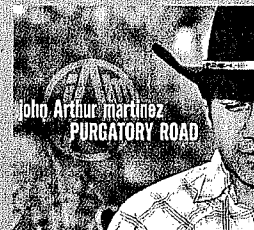


CATCHING UP WITH

# Mixed Menu

John Arthur Martinez combines his favorite musical styles on his new *Purgatory Road* album.



John Arthur Martinez is putting a little bit of everything on the menu for his upcoming new CD, *Purgatory Road*, due Aug. 25. "Some songs go back to my Latin roots," explains the Austin, Texas, native, "while others will have a kind of folk/Americana sound. And, of course, there's plenty of country music to go around as well."

In other words, the new musical mix is like a typical Texas diner. "There's chicken fried steak, chili con carne-smothered enchiladas, pecan pie . . . it all comes out of the same kitchen," he smiles. "That's who I am."

John Arthur first grabbed the national spotlight as a contestant on the first season of *Nashville Star* in 2003, where he finished second behind Buddy Jewell. Since that time, he has released several albums, including 2004's *Lone Starry Night*, which spawned a bilingual hit, "The River of Love."

"The power of television is so amazing," says John Arthur with a broad smile. "I was able to connect with fans from all over the world as the show was licensed to other markets. I was told that some folks in South America saw it on MTV Brazil," he adds in a still-surprised tone.

John Arthur notes that his bilingual recording of the George Strait classic "Amarillo by Morning" became a hit in Argentina. "The River of Love" was popular in Europe as well as the Latin markets. Now, he hopes to take a step further with *Purgatory Road*.

"I wrote seven of the songs on the album," John Arthur notes. "I'm very proud of the title song, which I think might become a single. It's about a character who starts out innocently, then gets into trouble. And there is an extraordinary story that surrounds a song called 'The Ride.' It was inspired by a show that a friend of mine and I did at a bar in Texas. As a duo, we outnumbered the audience," he explains with a drawn-out laugh.

John Arthur, who now lives in Marble Falls, Texas, outside of Austin,

maintains a busy tour schedule, which fans can keep up with on his website, [johnarthurmartinez.net](http://johnarthurmartinez.net). "I book a lot of dates in Texas, but we play all over the country," he says. "I'm very excited about everything that's happening right now."



John Arthur wrote seven songs on *Purgatory Road*.

JOHN ARTHUR MARTINEZ BY RUBEN ARGUEZ/CCUCOMMERTAINMENTFR; JOHN ARTHUR PERFORMING BY JOHN RUSSELL/WIREIMAGE

— BOB PAXMAN