**Stephen Doster Bio**

**[](http://atticus-records.com/)**

Austin-based songwriter, guitarist, and producer **Stephen Doster** kicked off 2016 with the **Texas Songwriters Association** inducting him into the **Texas Music Legends Hall of Fame**. The occasion recognized over forty years of his work in music.

In 2024, Stephen released his seventh record, ***A Passing Train- A Compilation*** on Atticus Records. The release is a double-disc featuring 24 songs taken from 1980-2024. There are 14 unreleased songs including four curated from his work with the **Pretenders**, **James Honeyman-Scott.** “I’m so excited people will get to hear some of this work. He was working as my producer while on a break from his band. The master tapes had been stolen, but inspired by The Beatles salvaging cassettes, here we are. We had a lot of fun and this is some of his last recordings,” says Doster. The record also includes a 24-page booklet with artwork by his son, **Django Doster**, and stories about all the songs. His wife, **Melinda Doster**, provides the photography for the cover and more. “It’s a family affair.”

Over the course of his career,Doster has shared stages and studios with a long and eclectic line of musical luminaries, including **Joe Cocker, Lyle Lovett, Clarence “Gatemouth” Brown, James Honeyman-Scott,** **Little Feat, Richard Manuel, Rick Danko, Mark O’Connor, Ricky Nelson, Split Endz, Marshall Crenshaw, Ani DiFranco, Ramblin’ Jack Elliot**,and **Nanci Griffith,** with whom he appeared on **Austin City Limits** in 1985. He has produced over 70 albums for other artists, including records for **Maren Morris, Carolyn Wonderland,** and **Stanley Smith**.

As 2015 began, Doster’s late 2014 record release, ***Arizona*** (Atticus Records)***,*** found itself atop “Best of the Year’ lists at the **Austin Chronicle** and the **Austin American Statesman.** **Peter Blackstock** named *Arizona* among his “Top Ten of 2014” in the Austin American Statesman, calling it *“exquisitely crafted, classic guitar and piano pop”*. Blackstockalso nominated the record in **The Village Voice’s Pazz & Jop Poll** for the year. The Austin Chronicle’s **Jim Caligiuiri** echoed the praise, placing *Arizona* at the top of his 2014 poll, lauding it as a “*masterpiece”* with “*one charmed melody after another*”.

*Arizona*  was Doster’s second solo album project, coming 18 years after his debut ***Rosebud***. In between, he released ***Impossible Sun*** with **Will Sexton** and ***Carter Doster*** ***Sexton*** with Sexton and **Bill Carter**.

In 2018 **Doster** was back with his third solo record, ***New Black Suit***, an album that the **Austin Chronicle’s Doug Freeman** praised for its “perfect, driving melodies in the key of reflection”.Philadelphia’s **MAGNET** magazine described the record as, “Something especially heavy.”

As with *Arizona*, Doster assembled the same core studio band for *New Black Suit*, which features the recently passed, musician extraordinaire, **George Reiff** (*Joe Walsh, Jacob Dylan*) on bass, master percussionist, **Dony Wynn** (*Robert Palmer, Dr. John*) on drums and percussion, and the immaculately tasteful **Kevin Lovejoy** (*Spoon, John Mayer*) on piano, organ, and various keyboards.

Doster began writing songs in his teens and still considers it to be the most compelling part of the music making process. He collaborated on several songs with **Tommy Shannon** and **Chris Layton** for their 2002 all-starcompilation **Double Trouble** ***Been A Long Time***. Notably, the song “Baby There’s No One Like You” was recorded by **Dr. John** and **Willie Nelson.** The record was their first release as Double Trouble following the passing of their friend and bandleader, **Stevie Ray Vaughan**. It spent two weeks at #1 on the **Billboard Blues Chart**.

Other songs he has written or co-written have been recorded by **Maren Morris**, **Storyville,** **Tommy Elskes, Rick Busby, Albert Cummings, Malford Milligan, Jonny Lang, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Brint Anderson, Philip Gibbs,** and **Charlie Sexton**.

In 2010, Doster signed a publishing deal with the **Universal Music Group**. The songs have appeared in a wide array of international television programs and films, including **Dancing With The Stars”** and **“Access Hollywood”** in the United States.

Beginning in 2012, Doster has been a part of the **Arts Envoy Program** for the U.S. State Department. He has traveled to several countries in Africa performing with **Greg Engle** on music cultural exchanges.Their non-profit **Guitars For Swaziland** has provided musical instruments and recording gear to orphanages and various music programs they have visited in their travels.

Stephen was born on November 10th, 1955 in Corpus Christi, Texas. He moved to London, England before his second birthday due to his father’s work for the U.S. government. After three years the Doster family moved to Chateauroux, France where they stayed for two years before returning stateside to Abilene, Texas. It was here he joined his first band, the **Par-We-Romis,** which they believed meant ‘The Three Little Twigs’ in Latin.

The family moved to San Antonio, Texas in 1966 where his guitar playing began in earnest. At a young age he saw many bands there, including The Animals, The Byrds, Jimi Hendrix, and Blind Faith, who he witnessed from the side of the stage thanks to Ginger Baker’s friend.. At the end of his freshman year of high school he moved back to Europe to Wiesbaden, Germany where he would complete high school. His band, the **Taunus Valley Medicine Show**, was popular in the region playing for locals and also frequently on American airbases.

After high school Stephen moved back to London to start his music career. There were few places to play live at the time in London’s pre-punk era. He got word that Austin, Texas had ‘music everywhere,’ so he returned home to Texas to see for himself. He has made the Austin area his home ever since. He now lives near Austin in the Texas Hill Country with his wife, photographer **Melinda Doster**.

Doster is co-owner of **EAR Studio (East Austin Recording)** with his longtime record making collaborator **James Stevens**, formerly of **Moonlight Towers** and currently touring and recording as **JM Stevens** (Chicken Ranch Records).

In 2019 Doster produced the record ***Home*** for **George Ensle**. It had been forty years since he had played guitar on Ensle’s debut, ***Head On.***

Contact- [stephendoster1@yahoo.com](mailto:stephendoster1@yahoo.com) Website- [www.stephendoster.com](http://www.stephendoster.com)