

Michael Johnson Bio

Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, pop singer/songwriter guitarist Michael Johnson started his musical avocation in the Pacific Northwest as one of the principal songwriters of the moderately successful band The American Girls.

After leaving The American Girls in 1997, Michael went solo under the moniker Reclinerland and a year later recorded songs for the flagship album of the Portland, Oregon based independent label HUSH Records, whose alumni include Esperanza Spalding, Laura Gibson, and The Decemberists.

Since then, Michael has released seven studio albums on independent labels and toured in Canada, Europe and all over the U.S., sharing bills with notable acts such as The Red House Painters, Kristen Hirsh, Modern English, Tears For Fears, Brenda Kahn, Joseph Arthur, Audio Learning Center, Damien Rice, The Decemberists, Norfolk & Western, The Stratford 4, Corrine Bailey Rae, Regina Spektor, and appearing at festivals such as CMJ, SXSW, and Sasquatch. In April 2000, Reclinerland appeared on national television on Jimmy & Doug's Farm Club TV show on the USA network.

In addition to his work as Reclinerland, Michael founded and wrote songs and string arrangements for the band Parks & Recreation, who released two studio albums. He also played Rhodes piano, wrote horn arrangements, and sang in Blanket Music; wrote string arrangements for the Decemberist's album *Her Majesty*; and played various instruments in Super XX Man. Recordings featuring Michael by Reclinerland, Parks & Recreation, Blanket Music, the Decemberists, and Super XX Man are all available on iTunes, Amazon, and other online retailers.

In 2008, Michael earned his master's degree in Music Education from Portland State University, where he studied jazz piano, arranging, composition, and conducting.

Parallel to his work in music, Michael has also enjoyed a lifelong passion for acting. Throughout his childhood and well into the 90s, he performed with the Bay Area theater company Children's Theater Workshop. Since leaving the Bay Area in 1993, he has appeared around the country in productions staged by companies such as Actor's Cabaret of Eugene in Oregon, and the American Theater of Actors in New York City. His favorite roles have included Orsino in *Twelfth Night*, George in *Our Town*, Rosencrantz in *Hamlet*, Charlie in *What I Did Last Summer*, Horace in *The Little Foxes*, George in *The Actor's Nightmare*, and Fortinbras in *Fortinbras*.

In addition to writing short musicals, Michael has written the music and lyrics for the musical *Happy Valley*, with book by Rich Rubin. He has also written the book, music, and lyrics for the musical *Success!*

www.reclinerlandhq.com

www.parksandrecreationhq.com