

John Tracy — Real Music for Real People

BY ALEXANDRIA COLLIER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE SCHILLIO

The acoustic sounds of the 70's strikes a cord that's pleasing to a multitude of ears. For John Tracy, this became his musical inspiration. Without an artistic sense in his life, Tracy put it upon himself to fall in love with music and songwriting. It took a lot of years and alternate careers for Tracy to come to a full realization of his potential, but in recent years, this Aledo resident has become a well-known musician.

"I started playing guitar when I heard in the 70's all the acoustic kind of sounds," Tracy said. "Just all the singer songwriters of that time had a real unique acoustic sound. They all seemed to be a lot more transparent in that era. Today I consider [today's music] to be what I call 'manufactured music.' It's run by executives, people who don't really know about music other than what they think is going to make a buck."

Tracy sees yesterday's music as having had heart, something that music of today, in his opinion, is lacking.

"I started off thinking 'I want to play like that,'" Tracy said. "I picked up the acoustic guitar and started when I was 16. I started to learn by ear, I had an old reel-to-reel and learned to play all of my favorite songs."

By his 20's, Tracy's music became his own. He used the inspiration of his favorite tunes to write and express himself into personal songs of his own, and even though this love of self-written music was emerging, it was not the time for his musical career to begin.

"I didn't really pursue it [then] but I always had a passion for music as far as trying to express myself but I got married early and then just kind of went on that path and had a family," Tracy said.

For the next 25 years, Tracy was involved with his father in the family business where they manufactured helicopter windows. This company was considered a "specialty style business" and with that came the stress.

"It didn't start out successful," Tracy said. "We had a lot of bumps along the way. It takes time to develop a customer base but over the years we did. I ran the business; my dad was more of the 'hands on.' I ran marketing and advertising, making sure the product was made well. Through the years it started to take its toll on me, the stress of it all, extreme stress. It was more stressful as it became more successful. As time went on, I felt this need to get out of it, and to move on to something else. I didn't really know what I was going to do."

It would become a leap of faith, but the desire to

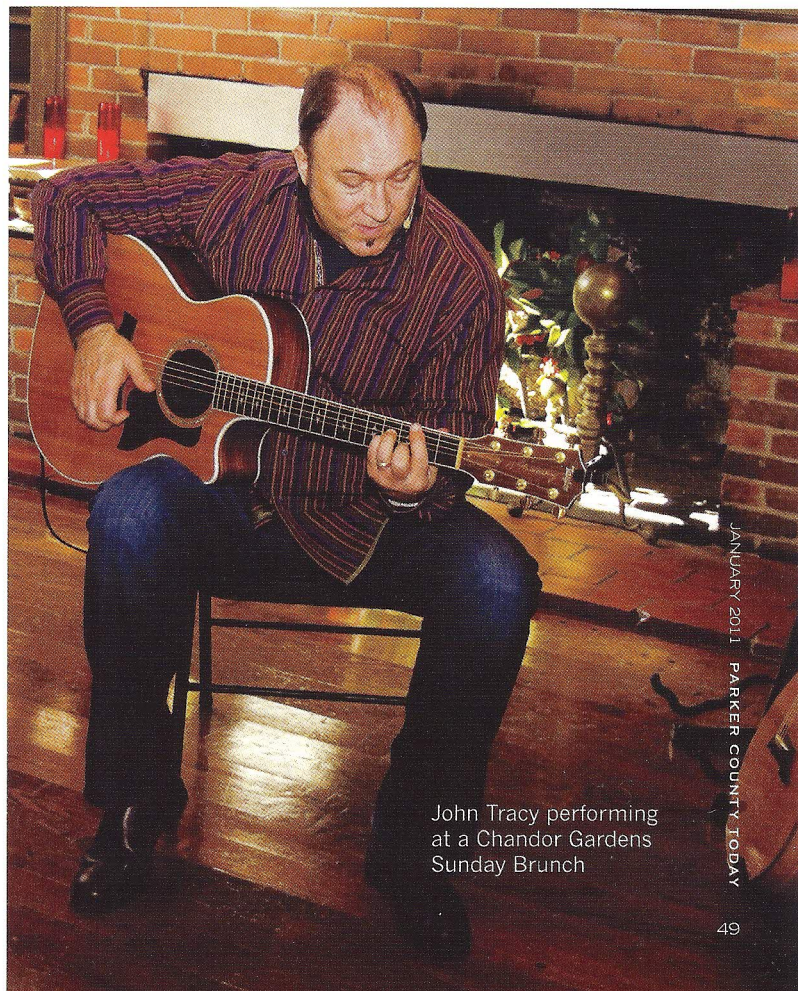
make music was still burning within him. Tracy still felt a passion for the music he had abandoned 25 years before. With his wife, Terri, who had worked with him in the family business for 10 years, Tracy jumped, head first into the process of building a musical career.

"[Terri and I] were a great team together," Tracy said. "I believe every successful person has a strong right-arm-person and for me that was my wife."

While Tracy fills the role of songwriter and performer, Terri works as his production manager.

"Terri and I have been producing together and she is the computer guru and just dives on into it," Tracy said.

They are able to produce Tracy's songs on an Apple computer based program called Logic Pro. The ability to use this program has allowed for flexibility in time and money for the at home production team.



John Tracy performing
at a Chandor Gardens
Sunday Brunch

