



from *Ciao* to *Wow!*

The **BILLY JOE CONOR** Story

As a singer/songwriter for today's Country Music,
Billy Joe Conor takes listeners from *Ciao* to *Wow!*

A New Yorker by choice, an Italian by birth and a singer/songwriter by God-given talent, he is more of a paradox than a contradiction. Billy Joe Conor of New York City gives country music a fresh face and an original voice with his debut hit single, *Hook, Line and Sinker*. "I wanted to sing and write songs ever since I was five years old and living in Italy," Conor states.

His eponymously titled CD, *Billy Joe Conor*, offers listeners a rich and textured view of the emerging face of New-Country music. Conor brings the theme of angst-driven love to a new level of intensity for his fans by combining the attraction of pop music with the allure of country sounds. This attractive combination makes for an enjoyable and seductive listening experience. While all of the songs in this well-crafted work rise to the level of hit status, three of his works demand to be heard. *Hook, Line and Sinker*, *Last Night's Memories* and *A Rose in the Devil's Garden*, demonstrate an insight into the minds and hearts of lovers everywhere. Pushing sentiment aside in favor of iron-willed resolve, these songs capture a fierce sense of romantic commitment and permanency that stands in stark contrast in a world that too often defines women as trophy wives. In Billy Joe Conor's universe, waffling is not an option.

Gifted with a savvy business sense and an astute awareness of what works commercially, Conor notes that, "American New-Country music has, in fact, developed an international base of fans beyond the traditional 'fiddle and country store' borders of the United States. "A good example of this," states Conor "can currently be seen in countries such as Japan, Australia and the Netherlands, where my songs are already climbing radio station popularity charts. Middle America use to be the end line boundary for

country music; now it's the defining reference point for where it starts." Conor's voice of authority is hard-won. As a teenager, he spent countless hours showcasing his musical skills and making vital contacts at the world famous Brill Building. In the world of music, this iconic edifice, based in midtown Manhattan, is the historical home base for some of the greatest pop singers and songwriters of the past century. His persistence paid off in ways that are still affecting his life today.

During one of his many trips to the Brill Building, Conor entered the offices of veteran songwriter Rose Marie McCoy. Recalling that fateful first meeting, Rose fondly remembers, "My receptionist came into my office. 'I don't know what it is about this kid,' she said, 'but I think you should listen to him sing'." Billy was invited into Rose's office, where he began singing *Tryin' to Get to You*, originally recorded by Elvis Presley and later re-recorded by Faith Hill. "As I was giving the song my best shot," recalls Billy, "Rose looked at me with a startled expression on her face. When I finished she smiled broadly and extended her hand to me. 'I'm Rose Marie McCoy,' she said, 'I wrote *Tryin' to Get to You*. Would you like to write songs with me?' Eventually Rose and I wrote all the songs I recently recorded on my debut CD."

Conor's fascination with music goes well beyond his artistic commitment of writing and performing. His interest in all things musical qualifies him as a modern day Renaissance Man. An avid collector of Americana musical items and devices, he restored several vintage jukeboxes, numerous turn of the century horned phonographs and cathedral radios from the twenties and thirties to working order and mint condition. He is also a dedicated collector of records for all of his devices. "I've traveled to numerous collectible shows around the east

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(Continued from page 1)

BY GUY ARSENEAU

coast in search of old records, including cylinder records for my Edison cylinder phonographs, and 78 RPM records for the wind-up horn phonographs and the 1940s jukeboxes,” he states. These items make his home a mecca for many of his friends who share his passion for collecting musical artifacts.

Spanning generational bridges and musical taste from Al Jolson to Simon & Garfunkel, Billy Joel and Lady Gaga, New York City maintains its role as a home base for an eclectic blend of stars with extraordinary musical talents and abilities. With the breakout debut of Billy Joe Conor as a star-ascendant, this impressive list just got a little bit longer.

As a singer/songwriter for today’s Country Music, Billy Joe Conor takes listeners from *Ciao* to *Wow!* His songs richly address love, longing and hope with a romantic finesse that highlights the fundamental human condition and all of its intricate nuances. This work, of sing-along tunes and stay-in-your-head lyrics, is a sit-up-and-cheer mega-hit for lovers of Country as well as Pop music.

For more information on Billy Joe, please visit his website, www.billyjoeconor.com, and get his music from stores such as CD Baby, iTunes, eMusic, Amazon, Google play, cdUniverse and all other music stores.

