

## **ERIC LINDELL**

### **Biography 2010**

Eric Lindell's *Between Motion and Rest*, is an 8-song, vinyl or CD release, which essentially picks up where its predecessor, *Gulf Coast Highway* left off. Lindell treats each song or new release, as unique, organically-formed creatures. Full of nuance and rich with emotion, Eric's music is the real deal. If you want some mellow-yet-swinging, good time southern rock, then look no further than "Bodega," which suggests a marriage of Elvin Bishop and the Allman Brothers, spiced by gentle horn jabs and boasting the most sensual guitar tone you'll hear all year. Lindell's cover of Magic Sam's "That's Why I'm Crying" will make you shed a tear or two as well, particularly the way guest vocalist Peter Joseph Burt (who also contributes kora) summons images of a man at the end of his rope and nearly blind with misery, wondering if he'll ever see his woman again. (Speaking of covers, for all you classic soul fans, Lindell and his band also work up a spot-on version of Curtis Mayfield's "It's So Hard to Believe.")

Born in San Mateo, California, in 1969, singer/songwriter/vocalist Eric Lindell, spent countless hours in San Francisco, soaking up the musical sounds of the city, which lead him to pick up the bass and then the guitar. He discovered blues greats Junior Wells, Jimmy Reed and Albert King before drifting toward the R&B sounds of Stevie Wonder and Donny Hathaway, soaking up the soul and learning how to craft a song. Lindell left California for New Orleans in 1999, where he quickly discovered the roots music scene. Before long he met up with Galactic's Stanton Moore, and the two jammed together often. Some of New Orleans' finest players, including keyboardist Ivan Neville and drummers Harold Brown and Johnny Vidacovich, often joined him on stage. Galactic bassist Rob Mercurio began sitting in as well, and word of Lindell's immense talents quickly spread around the city. Stars like Branford Marsalis, The Neville Brothers, John Scofield, Chris Chew (North Mississippi Allstars), and Wally Ingram (David Lindley, Stockholm Syndrome) began showing up at his gigs and embracing this fresh California kid's funky music. According to Lindell, "It's a great feeling to be recognized for your music in New Orleans."

Eric Lindell first hit the national music scene with his 2006 Alligator Records debut *Change In The Weather*, critics and fans alike celebrated the arrival of a roots rocker with dozens of unforgettable original songs. With his musical roots planted in Northern California, Lindell's music blossomed in New Orleans. His combination of sweet, blue-eyed soul with foot-stomping R&B, swamp pop, funk and blues won him critical and popular acclaim across the country, with reviews and features in *Relix*, *OffBeat*, *The Chicago Sun-Times*, *Harp*, *Guitar Player*, *Down Beat*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Press* and many other national and regional publications. *Singer and Musician* magazine put Eric on the cover and many newspaper entertainment sections did the same. The *New Orleans Times-Picayune* said, "Eric Lindell has arrived. He channels Van Morrison with his irresistible soul...not a moment is wasted." The *Chicago Sun-Times* followed, saying "Soulful original songs fuse R&B, swamp pop and funk into a potent, party-time mix."

As he toured the U.S., his fan base grew, and before long, clubs and festivals were filled with happy, dancing people singing the words to every song. In 2008, Lindell released *Low On Cash, Rich In Love*, a collection filled with solid grooves, insightful lyrics and one emotionally rich song after another. In 2009, Lindell released *Gulf Coast Highway*, which represented the music of New Orleans and the surrounding region, by working with a host of N'awlins musical talent including Galactic drummer Stanton Moore and bassist Robert Mercurio. Among the album's most overt homages: "This Love is Gonna Last," a skittery slice of uptempo R&B cut from Allen Toussaint or Dr. John cloth; "I Can Get Off on You," an old

Waylon Jennings-Willie Nelson composition that subtly shifts its rhythmic and melodic focus from Tex-Mex to Basin Street; and "Raw Doggin'," a funky instrumental that's pure Meters.

Lindell's live shows draw as much attention as his material. His unstoppable grooves, rocking, deeply rooted, original songs and excellent musicianship never fail to fill the dance floor. With the release of *Between Motion and Rest*, Lindell and his band will continue to tour heavily, giving the rest of the country the chance to discover for themselves what a growing number of people already know: Eric Lindell is a musician bursting at the seams with talent, with the uncanny natural ability to come up with one instantly classic song after another, and the desire to take his music to every corner of the music-loving universe.

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