



JACOB VANKO

**SOULFUL
AMERICANA**

**POWERFUL
ROCK & ROLL**

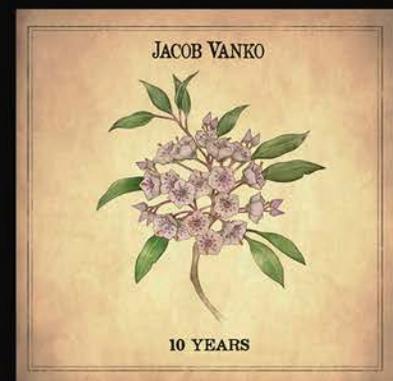
“
When I was a young kid I asked my father to teach me a song on the guitar. He taught me the chords G, C and D and told me he would show me a Bob Dylan song... But only after I came up with my own rhythm and chord progression first. I suppose my first guitar lesson was also my first lesson in writing and creating music.
”

DEBUT RELEASE

Featured as album of the week on “Out of the Box with Paul Shugrue.”

Jacob vanko has been a furious presence on the Hampton Roads music scene and on his debut album, 10 years, he shows he's just as adept in the studio as he is on stage. The album has Soulful Americana tunes that just jump out of the radio. His Top-notch backing band includes three great lead guitarists sharing duties on the 12 tracks giving each a unique, varied arrangement. Pulling it all together is his producer, Rich Mossman, who brings class and style to the overall sound. Vanko's big voice embodies songs with social observations, recognizing his own inner struggles and the searching and questioning he uses as a muse for his writing. He's found the sweet spot between gritty energy and heartfelt passion on 10 years.

Paul Shugrue - 89.5 whro / npr



BIOGRAPHY



Jacob Vanko was born and raised in the Anthracite Coal Region of Northeast Pennsylvania. The blue-collar town he calls home sits nestled in a valley amid Pennsylvania's slice of the Appalachian Mountains. Brought up in an environment where both sides of his family were artistic and musical, the impressionable boy was surrounded by an eclectic, creative energy. His father, a songwriter in his own right, introduced iconic songwriters like John Prine, Bruce Springsteen, Tom Waits and Bob Dylan to his burgeoning, songwriter son. Vanko's musical lineage also includes figures like his grandfather on his mother's side, who was a local jazz drummer and his aunt on his father's side, who was a nationally prominent classical pianist.

"I used to go to those piano lessons kicking and screaming. My 8 year old brain just didn't have a clue that I was being taught by one of the best piano teachers in the country. Now I wish I could sit with her for 5 minutes and talk about music and life. That's what my song 'The Garden' is about."

As a teen growing up in the late 1990's and early 2000's, the raw and rebellious artist gravitated towards the furious, dark and heavy sounds of groups like Alice in Chains, Soundgarden, Nirvana, Pearl Jam and Tool. The melodic and unique sounds of grunge in all its glory with the gritty guitar tones, aggressive vocals and well crafted songs were major contributing factors to the evolution and development of Vanko's writing and live performance.

"Chris Cornell (Soundgarden) inspired me to be a singer. But it was Adam Duritz (Counting Crows) who inspired me to write."

Jacob found himself coming into his own as a songwriter in his 20's. Migrating from Pennsylvania to land in Southeast Virginia, his life experiences to this point painted a curious picture of the world. Social observations, the ugliness of inner struggle, searching and questioning brought an intense quality to his writing. The early seeds of traditional blues, folk, country and bluegrass have collided with the bold sounds of grunge and rock influences forging a poetic americana songwriter with a furious live stage presence.



NOTABLE PERFORMANCES



OPENER

Dwight Yoakam - Ferguson Center for the Arts (Newport News, VA)
Bob Lewis - Artist Residency at Tennessee brew works (Nashville, TN)
Sister Hazel - 17th street Stage (Virginia Beach, VA)
Will Hoge - Diesel Rock 'n' Country Bar (Virginia Beach, VA)
The Mallett Brothers Band - The Vanguard (Hampton, VA)
Kendall Street Company - Shakas (Virginia Beach, VA)

FESTIVALS / SHOWCASES

The Big Bluesy Festival (Headliner) - Williamsburg, Va • Va Songwriters in the round showcase - Hampton, Va • Proteus Festival - Virginia Beach, Va • Winter Blues and Jazz Festival - Williamsburg, Va • Harborfest - Norfolk, Va • Songwriters in the round showcase - Nashville, Tn • Neptune Festival - Virginia Beach, Va

PRESS

"Jacob Vanko has a big voice, compelling songs and his backing band on 'Ten Years' is top notch. The album has soulful, Americana tunes that jump out of the radio!"

Paul Shugrue 89.5 WHRO / NPR

"Jacob Vanko is one of the most talented artists out there. Go see him locally while you still can. His talent will surely take him away from us."

Allen Fabijan 106.1 NEW COUNTRY

"Being in the music industry for two decades; I can honestly count on one hand how many artists made me stop dead in my tracks to listen. Jacob Vanko is one of those artists."

Sean "Coop" Tabler 96.5 TDY PHILLY

"I have never been disappointed by a Jacob Vanko performance. He is a powerhouse and there is no other voice like his"

Holly Williams 93.7 BOB FM



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