



**An interview with Billy Wright by Kat Coffin, writer with Examiner.com
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Who were your influences in music?

I've found that I've been moved by all kinds of music, styles, artist and bands. Even that of the jingles and sounds from music played in commercials. I've grown up in house that had anything from Patsy Cline, Randy Travis Dolly Parton, Ashford and Simpson, Prince, early mo-town of the Jackson Five, Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder and just so many more.

At some point I was introduced to Metallica, Guns Roses and some glam rock bands like Slaughter.

It was the music of the early 90s that had a huge impact due to their passion, incredible melodies, and wonderful recordings, Such groups as Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Smashing Pumpkins Gin Blossoms Weezer.

I eventually studied a bit of jazz in college for a few semesters, which I had no knowledge about at all. I was actually a bit nervous about studying it because I didn't want it to "wreck" my playing as I guy who was listening to a lot of rock. Along this path dropped Dave Matthews Band.

This is, at least where I've started... These days, Lenny Kravitz, Jimi Hendrix, John Mayer and a lot of 70s pop, rock, or soul records have been added to the catalog of inspiration.

What is your musical background?

I wrote/song a song to a girl liked in kindergarten. This was the first ever. Haha I started out playing keyboards in elementary school. Picked up the alto sax in middle school and played that through high school. I always wanted to be marching band. I eventually picked up the electric guitar in high school and I couldn't put it down. I never imagined I'd be a singer, but once I started putting bands together during the high schools, I found that no one else ever wanted to sing... I so I just started doing it.

At the time I didn't know I could write lyrics or be poetic. It was just something I did, because that job needed to be filled.

I've been working in bands and as a session guy for about 15years. This has included studio work, live playing and co-songwriting.

I'm 3 years into working as solo artist, with a band and crew that backs me up for most live performances.

Which musicians famous do you admire/why

Definitely Lenny Kravitz is one of them.

He seems like a very liberated artist in both his work and just as a person. He knows who he is as a person and artist. They are one in the same. And that place of freedom produces passionate music that showcases his voice and style clearly.

What inspires your music/lyric writing?

I like to write songs that I hope will move others to passion, empathy or a form of facing life. Most often music and media is an escape from facing a long day, week, or month. I like writing songs, which can meet people where they are at.

I wrote a song recently, inspired by a porch light. Really the whole song is about someone caring for you, welcoming you and always having a place for you in their life.

What's coming for you?

I'm currently booking shows for the summer. No dates have been posted yet but everyone can visit my website www.BillyWrightLive.com for show updates.

What is your impression of the Orlando music Scene?

There is a lot of great music here in Orlando, and it seems to keep growing. It's been great seeing other artist and venues being so supportive of one another.

What is the best music career advice you've been given, and by whom?

I'm not sure who said this first, it might have been me, but one of the themes or sayings among my band and crew is "Keep moving forward." It's a saying that has helped us stay focused. Working in this industry there can be many great plans and hopes for something but, after you put in the hard work, there's nothing more you can do. And if we don't arrive where we hope to be today, we "Keep moving forward" because you truly don't know what can happen in the next hour or day from now.

What is your favorite song of yours (or cover song) to play live and why?

Of mine I enjoy playing "The Fall" because it's such a delight seeing people dance and hearing them singing along to it.

With covers it's, for the same reason. Playing Rock with you by Michael Jackson has been a fun one.