

John Hammond



2011 BLUES HALL OF FAME Inductee

2011 Blues Music Award WINNER for Acoustic Artist of the Year

2010 GRAMMY Nominee for *Rough & Tough* (Best Traditional Blues Album). *Rough & Tough*, his 33rd album since his 1962 self-titled debut, was recorded live in November 2008 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in NYC. Included are classic songs written by **Muddy Waters**, **Howlin' Wolf**, **Blind Willie McTell** and **Tom Waits** among others, as well as two John Hammond originals

1985 GRAMMY Winner for his performance on *Blues Explosion*, a compilation from the Montreux Jazz Festival also featuring **Stevie Ray Vaughan**, **Koko Taylor** and others

2006 GRAMMY Nominee *In Your Arms Again*

1999 GRAMMY Nominee *Long As I Have You*

1998 GRAMMY Nominee *Found True Love*

1994 GRAMMY Nominee *Trouble No More*

1993 GRAMMY Nominee *Got Love If You Want It*

***Blues Music Award Winner: 2004 & 2003** for Best Acoustic Blues Artist, 2002 for Best Acoustic Album for his **Tom Waits** produced *Wicked Grin*. To date John Hammond has been honored with a total of **8 Blues Music Awards** and an **additional 10 nominations**

*Featured on **2010 Blues Music Awards Nominated *Things About Comin' My Way - A Tribute to the music of the Mississippi Sheiks*** (Acoustic Album of the Year)

***2002 GRAMMY Nominee** for Best Historical Album *Washington Square Memoirs Box Set* features John Hammond performing "Drop Down Mama"

*Host of the **BRAVO TV** special and **Sony Home Video**, *The Search for Robert Johnson*

*Performed or recorded with **Jimi Hendrix** (discovered while playing in John's band), **Eric Clapton**, **Muddy Waters**, **Howlin' Wolf**, **Duane Allman**, **Mike Bloomfield**, **JJ Cale**, **Tom Waits**, **The Band**, **John Lee Hooker**, **Dr. John** and many more. He remains one of the world's premier acoustic blues artists. A tireless performer, he played his 4000th date as a Rosebud artist in June 2008 and continues to tour world-wide on an annual basis.

"John's sound is so compelling, complete, symmetrical and soulful with just his voice, guitar and harmonica, it is at first impossible to imagine improving it... He's a great force of nature. John sounds like a big train coming. He chops them all down."

Tom Waits

"John Hammond is a master... He is a virtuoso. A Conjurer... A Modernist... John is in a very small circle of men with a guitar and a harmonica. Jimmy Reed, Howlin' Wolf, Bob Dylan. The guitar is an orchestra. He's sending messages. Storytelling. All mystery. Protection. The language goes out through the night... The Big Boom. Boom the room."

T Bone Burnett

THE ROSEBUD AGENCY

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Rough & Tough

CHESKY RECORDS

In some ways, *Rough & Tough* harkens back to that first recording Hammond did with Vanguard Records nearly 50 years ago. But over time, Hammond has become a force of nature onto himself, closer in spirit to the icons he emulated as a young man. His guitar playing has become stronger, his expression deepened by the years. Upon its release, *Rough & Tough* wasted no time and reached #13 on the Billboard Blues charts. "This recording is not unlike a live show that I would do except that there was no live audience to perform for," says Hammond. "It's been a while since I've had a solo album out, so I'm very happy with it."

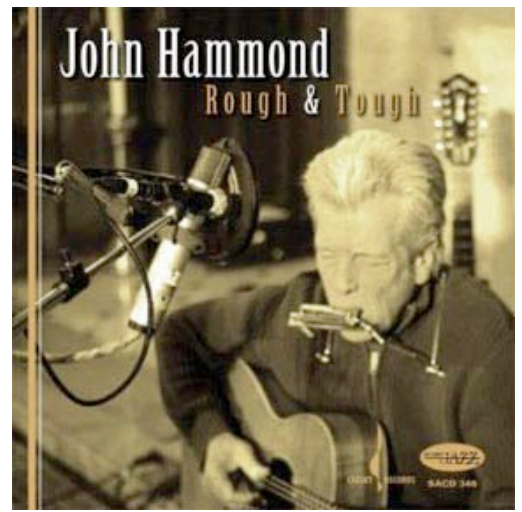
With a career that spans over three decades, John Hammond is one of a handful of white blues musicians who was on the scene at the beginning of the first blues renaissance of the mid-'60s. That revival, brought on by renewed interest in folk music around the U.S., brought about career boosts for many of the great classic blues players, including **Mississippi John Hurt**, **Rev. Gary Davis**, and **Skip James**. Some critics have described Hammond as a white Robert Johnson, and Hammond does justice to classic blues by combining powerful guitar and harmonica playing with expressive vocals and a dignified stage presence. Within the first decade of his career as a performer, Hammond began crafting a niche for himself that is completely his own: the solo guitar man, harmonica slung in a rack around his neck, reinterpreting classic blues songs from the 1930s, '40s, and '50s. Yet, as several of his mid-'90s recordings for the Pointblank label demonstrate, he's also a capable bandleader who plays wonderful electric guitar. This guitar-playing and ensemble work can be heard on *Found True Love* and *Got Love If You Want It*, both for the Pointblank/Virgin label.

Born November 13, 1942, in New York City, the son of the famous Columbia Records talent scout **John Hammond, Sr.**, what most people don't know is that Hammond didn't grow up with his father. His parents split when he was young, and he would see his father several times a year. He first began playing guitar while attending a private high school, and he was particularly fascinated with slide guitar technique. He saw his idol, **Jimmy Reed**, perform at New York's Apollo Theater, and he's never been the same since. After attending Antioch College in Ohio on a scholarship for a year, he left to pursue a career as a blues musician. By 1962, with the folk revival starting to heat up, Hammond had attracted a following in the coffeehouse circuit, performing in the tradition of the classic country blues singers he loved so much. By the time he was just 20 years old, he had been interviewed for the New York Times before one of his East Coast festival performances, and he was a certified national act.

When Hammond was living in the Village in 1966, a young **Jimi Hendrix** came through town, looking for work. Hammond offered to put a band together for the guitarist, and got the group work at the Cafe Au Go Go. By that point, the coffeehouses were falling out of favor, and instead the bars and electric guitars were coming in with folk-rock. Hendrix was approached there by **Chas Chandler**, who took him to England to record. Hammond recalls telling the young Hendrix to take Chandler up on his offer. "The next time I saw him, about a year later, he was a big star in Europe," Hammond recalled in a 1990 interview. In the late '60s and early '70s, Hammond continued his work with electric blues ensembles, recording with people like Band guitarist **Robbie Robertson** (and other members of **the Band** when they were still known as **Levon Helm & the Hawks**), **Duane Allman**, **Dr. John**, harmonica wiz **Charlie Musselwhite**, **Michael Bloomfield**, and **David Bromberg**.

There are many great recordings that provide a good introduction to the man's body of work. His self-titled debut for the Vanguard label has now been reissued on compact disc by the company's new owners, The Welk Music Group, and other good recordings to check out (on vinyl and/or compact disc) include *I Can Tell* (recorded with **Bill Wyman** from **the Rolling Stones**), *Southern Fried* (1968), *Source Point* (1970, Columbia), and his most recent string of early- and mid-'90s albums for Pointblank/Virgin Records, *Got Love If You Want It*, *Trouble No More* (both produced by **J.J. Cale**), and *Found True Love*.

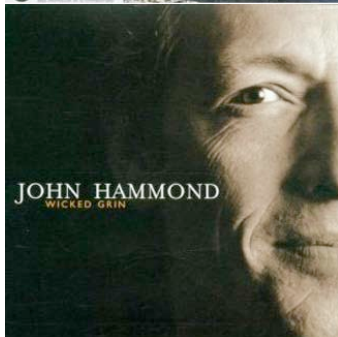
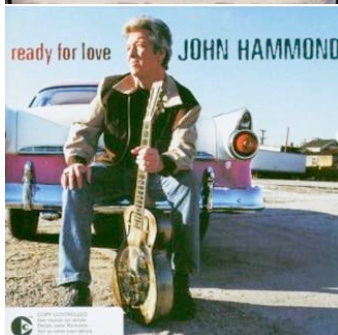
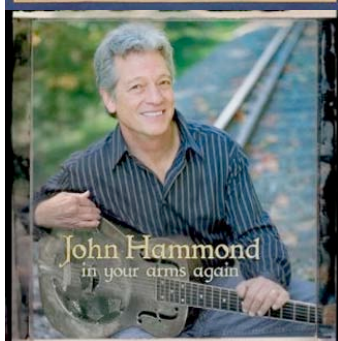
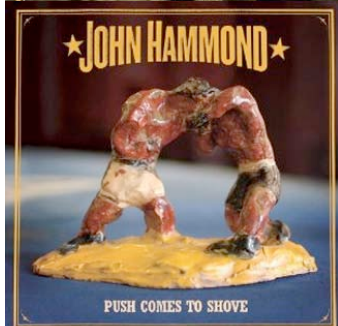
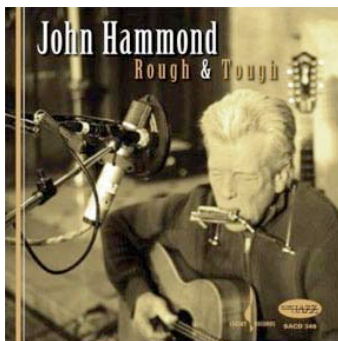
He didn't know it when he was 20, and he may not realize it now, but Hammond deserves special commendation for keeping many of the classic blues songs alive. When fans see Hammond perform them, as Dr. John has observed many times with his music and the music of others, the fans often want to go back further, and find out who did the original versions of the songs Hammond now plays. Although he's a multi-dimensional artist, one thing Hammond has never professed to be is a songwriter. In the early years of his career, it was more important to him that he bring the art form to a wider audience by performing classic - in some cases forgotten - songs. Now, more than 30 years later, Hammond continues to do this, touring all over the U.S., Canada, and Europe from his base in northern New Jersey. Whether it's with a band or by himself, Hammond can do it all. Seeing him perform live, one still gets the sense that some of the best is still to come from this energetic bluesman.



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Discography



- Rough & Tough** (2009) – *GRAMMY Nominee*
- Push Comes To Shove** (2007)
- Live in Greece** (2006)
- In Your Arms Again** (2005)
- At The Crossroads: The Blues of Robert Johnson** (2003)
- Ready For Love** (2003)
- Wicked Grin** (2001)
- Long As I Have You** (1998) – *GRAMMY Nominee*
- Found True Love** (1996) – *GRAMMY Nominee*
- Trouble No More** (1994) – *GRAMMY Nominee*
- You Can't Judge A Book By The Cover** (1993)
- Got Love If You Want It** (1992) – *GRAMMY Nominee*
- Nobody But You** (1988)
- Blues Explosion** (1985) – *GRAMMY Winner*
Compilation with Various Artists
- Spoonful** (1984)
- Live** (1983)
- Hits For The Highway** (1983)
- Frogs For Snakes** (1982)
- Mileage** (1980)
- Hot Tracks** (1979)
with The Nighthawks
- Footwork** (1978)
- John Hammond Solo** (1976)
- Can't Beat The Kid** (1975)
- Triumvirate** (1973)
with Dr. John & Mike Bloomfield
- I'm Satisfied** (1972)
- When I Need** (1971)
- Little Big Man** (1971)
- Source Point** (1970)
- Southern Fried** (1969)
- Sooner Or Later** (1968)
- Mirrors** (1967)
- I Can Tell** (1967)
- So Many Roads** (1965)
- John Hammond** (1964)
- Country Blues** (1964)
- Big City Blues** (1964)

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