

“When I heard The Beatles I wanted to be a pop star; when I heard George Harrison solo I wanted to be a songwriter and when I first heard people react positively to my performing my own songs I decided ‘that’s it’ and I’ve been incredibly excited about doing it ever since!”

Michael Vincent is a San Francisco Bay Area singer/songwriter who performs primarily in the Bay Area in solo in house concert settings and in clubs and bistros with his full band, **You Know Who**.

Michael began writing and performing in his early 20s after teaming up with friends and an older brother making music in some of the folk-rock haunts in 70s San Francisco, striking out on his own and eventually opening for and recording with nationally known artists such as members of We Five, and members of various incarnations of The (Grateful) Dead.

Michael’s song writing (and performance) philosophy is **change it up!** He makes the observation, “you don’t listen to just one kind of music, I don’t listen to just one kind of music, why in the world would I only want to make just one kind of music?” His songs always have a signature Michael Vincent feel, yet stylistically they range from Blues, to Americana/Roots music, to Power Pop ballads and even edgier Punk/Metal influences like in his song **Fire Fight**. Michael explains, “I have one song about people returning from war in the Middle East that’s totally Pop Punk. Why? Because when your nerve-endings are frayed from horror stories about a war the song has to have that edge in order to communicate your sense of outrage, it demands it!”

Michael is influenced by long-in-the-tooth artists of his youth, from The Beatles (“who never wrote the same song twice”) to newer artists like Snow Patrol and The Fruit Bats, whom Michael observes, “... bring some exciting new energy to pop music.”

In his writing Michael calls upon his personal experiences through 30+ years as a social work chaplain. “My song writing is influenced by every human experience known to man – or woman – and the way our deepest selves are shaped by those experiences.” He is still an occasional volunteer at a South Bay drop-in-center for the homeless where he had a career as a social work chaplain. “I still have both that abiding sense of faith that somehow manages to see people in destitute poverty through their despair and helps get them off the street, along with being well acquainted with what it means to share bread with people who are personally so vulnerable they’re virtually stripped naked of every pretense imaginable.”

“I also write pop songs,” Michael says with a wink and a smile. “While I’m committed to the cause of those living on the margins, I’m not fixated that this is the only thing worth communicating about in music. Pop music in particular carries a great release – no matter what your economic situation - to be able to take a breath of fresh air and actually infuse something positive into it all is a great thing.”

Michael has released 6 solo albums: his first - **Lines and Wonders** – was recorded in 1993, and his latest - **For the Record** – is a compilation of personal and audience favorites from 25

years of recording, just released on Angel Blossom Records, a Bay Area independent label formed recently to work with a hand picked collection of local artists.

An independent documentary about the making of Michael's most recent studio album, **The Longest Time** - produced by SpeakLo Media - has also been released by Angel Blossom. The film chronicles the recording and production of the album with a select group of Sonoma County Americana musicians at the iconic Prairie Sun Recording studios in Cotati. It is available for streaming at MichaelVincentMusic.com.