

Steve Wilson - Bass

Steve was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, into a musical family. His mom was the pianist/organist in a gospel church, and his dad was a bluegrass/country musician. His dad began teaching him guitar and lap Steel in 1956. Steve switched to bass around 1958, when he was allowed to play an upright Kay bass at a Cajon Jam Session in Plaquemine LA. His hands were too small to hold the strings down, but if the notes were on the open string tunings, Steve played them and muted the rest. He fell in love with the sound and feeling that bass produced. Bass has been his instrument of choice ever since.

Steve's professional career began in Illinois playing in local R&R garage bands until 1967 when he joined an established touring R&R band (Loose Endz) and toured the Great Lakes area until 1969. Joined Mark Andrews and The Jet Tones (Country) in 1969 and toured the same areas. In 1970 formed Silver City Review (Outlaw Country) with Tim Morris and began working the Fair Circuit in Illinois until 1972.

From 1972 until 1990, Steve gave up music career and went to work for the Railroad. Without a doubt, his dad was and is his greatest influence. Not only dad's talent as a vocalist, guitarist & pedal steel player, but his philosophy about music itself. His teachings on how to think about music is the mainstay of how Steve plays today. To quote a one of his many philosophical approaches *"Don't just learn to play the notes, listen inside you to the feeling the music is producing. This will develop a personal passion for the music you are playing, whether it is something you or someone else writes"*.

Listening and watching Mom and Dad playing and singing the songs they loved was a lesson in music Steve still sees and feels today. When watching and listening to John Denver's music, Steve gets the same image of passion for the story and the music he watched when he was a child. The stories in his songs create such melodic, heartfelt visual images that express the essence of the beauty around us. When I play John Denver's music with the John Adams Band, I'm always in hopes of capturing some of that essence he so fluently expresses, Steve says.