



## Who to see

# SONGROCKER HUNTER TYNAN DAVIS

by Shelly Vitanza

Because of Southeast Texas musical history, it stands to reason the world's first songrocker would be birthed from these parts. Hunter Tynan Davis, a graduate of Little Cypress Mauriceville High School now living in Nashville, coined the term that he claims to represent. Davis creates original music inspired from all the music he grew listening to – blues, rock, country and jazz – has an uber popular music video and plans to come home later this year to play for his hometown peeps.

**Q:** You call yourself a songrocker. What does that mean?

**A:** Singer-Songrocker originated from my college days back in Southeast Texas. I enjoy writing intuitive sweet songs as well as acoustically driven blues/rock tunes so "singer-songwriter" as a genre, I felt, didn't fully encompass what I was writing and performing. Out of those thoughts "singer-songrocker" was born!

**Q:** Where and how did your musical journey begin?

**A:** I started playing guitar when I was 10 — played trumpet at Little Cypress Mauriceville until I was a freshman as well. My father was — and still is — a fantastic songwriter, so some of my earliest memories are of him playing every morning or at every social function we went to. Also my mother was always playing everything from Cat Stevens and Tom Petty to Willie Nelson and Townes Van Zandt, so I naturally gravitated to songwriting and to the guitars that were left around my house.

**Q:** Describe your music. It's been called jazzy, bluesy, but then you're living in Nashville, which would seem to indicate it's country.

**A:** Nashville is traditionally viewed as predominately country, but it really has blossomed into an epicenter of musical diversity. My music is most certainly a gumbo of influences and sounds. I have always leaned stylistically on my blues roots and laid-back Americana vibe, but there's most certainly elements of country and jazz that sneak in there. It's been described as a mix of Tom Petty, Jack Johnson and John Mayer.

**Q:** How did/does growing up on the Gulf Coast influence your music?

**A:** Our part of Texas has such a rich heritage of music from Janis Joplin and ZZ Top to the Big Bopper and Tracy Byrd so growing up with those elements, as well as the Southern coastal vibe, influenced me as an artist and human immensely.

**Q:** How do you write music? What inspires you?

**A:** Most of my songs originate from some guitar progression or arrangement. Usually my emotions are projected through the guitar and that in general gives me a sign post for my lyrical path and vocal melodies. The everyday pursuits and aspects of life influence me greatly. Artists in general are channels and emotional reporters that help refine/define the nuances or the human experience. It invigorates and humbles me every day to help articulate that experience through music and songs.

**Q:** Talk about some of the lyrics to your songs. Real? True? What do they mean?

**A:** For me, most of my lyrics are interpretive but may originate from something actual, experiences that have happened to me or the way a person or emotion struck me. But, of course, the beauty of songwriting is that a lot of times you're often writing from another place or emotional plateau. In the end, I'm just trying to paint a picture with words and present a story that is genuine.

**Q:** Had any big breaks?

**A:** I recently released a music video on Twitter — and YouTube, etc. etc. — for my first single titled "God Broke The Mold," and it garnered over 60,000 views in the first week on Twitter! That exposure alone has really boosted a lot of interest here in Nashville. Also, getting to work with producer Ken Coomer — former drummer for Wilco, who produced Emmylou Harris, Steve Earle and Will Hoge — has been an absolute dream come true.

**Q:** What are you currently working on?

**A:** We recorded a record almost a year ago but have decided to add three more songs. Heading back into the studio at the end of June, releasing another single in July, then tentatively releasing the ENTIRE record in September! To say we're excited is a vast understatement.

**Q:** Where can people hear your music?

**A:** My first single "God Broke The Mold" is on all major platforms such as Spotify, Amazon Music and iTunes, and the music video is on YouTube, Vimeo and Twitter. You can also check out other clips on my Instagram: huntertynandavis and Twitter: huntertynandavis

**Q:** When and where are you coming home to perform?

**A:** I'm booking some acoustic shows towards the end of summer and looking to bring the full band back in the fall!

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