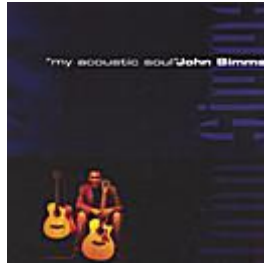


# Mp3 John Simms - My Acoustic Soul



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Details: John Simms hails from Baltimore and has been a professional guitarist/singer/composer /songwriter since he was 17. Being the youngest of 14 children, all of whom were singers or musicians or both, he didnt have to go very far to find his earliest inspirations; his father was also a gospel singer in the 30s and 40s with a group called the Spiritual Chords. He honed his craft the old-school way having spent many years on the Chitlin Circuit with various groups; including the 70s H&L records recording group: The Softones- for whom he was bandleader/guitarist / arranger (The Softones originated with his two brothers and two nephews). He came to Paris more than 20 years ago to get off the road for a while and hook up with his pianist/singer brother Arthur. He immediately began to make a living there: sometimes as a song writer/composer, (he even wrote songs for the Paradis Latins show Champagne), sometimes as a session guitarist or yet again as a backing vocalist with his now-deceased brother. French performers are perhaps not known outside the country, but one of the people or groups he performed and recorded with with might mean something to someone: Michel Jonasz, Robert Charlebois, Yves Simon, Jacques Dutronc, Chagrin dAmour, (he also did a few tours with Nana Mouskouri). His first album, which he made with his brother Arthur, was released in 1980. It was produced by Alec Costandinos in the US and soberly entitled John &Arthur Simms While in the States John also worked as a session guitarist with the renowned singer/songwriter /producer Al Johnson and he made it to Carnegie Hall playing behind the 70s classy soul singer Jean Carn. John returned to Paris and married Brenda (Danielle Rog) Jackson who was head of musical programming at French cable television network Canal +. Throughout the 13 years of his marriage, John continued to write songs for various French artist and work occasionally as a studio singer/musician, but following Brendas death in 2002 he faded from the music world as he tried to deal

with his loss. He had come to Paris to be with his brother Arthur and stayed for his wife Brenda; now they were both gone. Life began to take on meaning again for John when he decided just over a year ago that it was time to get back to his first love: playing and singing. The Parisian audiences were so bowled over by his performance that they implored him to make an album: the result is My Acoustic Soul.

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