

OTTAR BIG HAND JOHANSEN



What do you do after you've racked up 50 years of hits, sold-out shows and major music awards? Well, if you're you blast off toward even greater glories. And that's what the internationally celebrated Norwegian star has done with his new album, **"Big Hand - 50 Years On The Road"**. The project pairs Johansen in duets with such old friends and fellow spotlights as Joe Sun, Claudia Scott, Sugarfoot, Too Far Gone, Billy T Band, A-11, Bill Booth and Casino Steel. Co-produced with Bjorn Nilsen and Knut Hem, the album was released by New Cut Music May 29, 2015, and has earned great praise from both Americana audiences, and those who swear by more classic country, and rave reviews from the media. Most of the songs are originals, co-written by Johansen and a variety of Norwegian and American composers.

The first single from the album **"Starting All Over Again"** has been in the European country music Top 30 since its release in May, peaking at number 19. Here are some reactions from country radio djs:

Hans Nair, Osttirol Radio, Austria

Rating: 10 - "Fabulous track"

Peter Anderl, ORF Radio, Austria

Rating: 9 - "Good overall sound"

Joe Bartolo, One Radio, Malta

Rating: 10 - "Top marks"

Olov Lindgren, Radio Avesta, Sweden

Rating: 10 - "Great to have him back"

Erik Topholm, Country Kanalen Radio, Denmark

Rating: 10 - "Excellent"



The winner of two Spellemannpriser (equal to the US Grammy Awards), one with Claudia/Big Hand/Casino, the other for the solo album "Game Of Hearts", Johansen has long been pivotal in the growth and popularity of Norway's music industry, notably through festival and concert appearances with Big Hand Saloon and through his American tours with Joe Sun. In the process, he has shared the stage with such country music immortals as George Jones, Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson.

More recently, his prominence earned him a mentorship on the popular StjerneKamp series on NRK-TV and netted him the 2014 Cultural Award from the city of Oslo.

This year, Johansen is booked to perform at many festivals, and there will be an array of television, print and social media appearances.

For Ottar "Big Hand" Johansen, the 50-year mark is a milestone, not a goal post.

It is said to have been many Norwegian sailors, coming back home from across the Atlantic, bringing their brand new telecasters and Buck Owens records with them, who are mainly responsible for boosting the popularity of country music amongst the Norwegians back in the 60's. **One man is still carrying that torch.**

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