

HUGO DUARTE



We have a hunger of the mind, which asks for knowledge of all around us, and the more we gain, the more is our desire; the more we see, the more we are capable of seeing.

-- **Maria Mitchell**

We owe almost all of our knowledge not to those who have agreed, but to those who have differed.

-- **Charles Caleb Colton**

How do you describe the flavor of a mango to someone who has never tried one?

--**Wayne Dyer**

Don't try to describe the ocean if you've never seen it.

--**Jimmy Buffett**

I heard a lot of people play some really good songs. The difference was, I never heard Hugo Duarte play a bad one.

-- **A Hugo Duarte fan**

Someone once asked friend and House Concert host, Jeanne Combo, to describe my music and here's what she had to say:

"Trying to define Hugo Duarte's music is a bit like trying to define a great Cuban meal to someone who's never experienced those satisfying, mouth-watering sensations. Add on a creamy, caramel colored flan for dessert; top it all off with shot of kick-in-the pants, revive-the-dead Café Cubano, and there you have it.

Like good Cuban food, Hugo's music is a combination of a little bit of this, a little bit of that, and a whole lot of down-to-earth ingredients that come together in an adventure of the senses. You can't really describe it; you just have to try it in order to understand and appreciate the flavors and subtleties of whatever it is that you've just been presented."

Such are the elements of this remarkably talented Singer/songwriter/storyteller. Duarte blends of a bit of Country, a pinch of Bluegrass, a handful of Southern rock, a cup or two of Blues, a dash of Island music, occasionally sprinkled with some American history, or tales of the sea, to form an eclectic style that doesn't fit into the traditional definitions of the Rock and Roll world, the Tropic/Island sound, Blues, Country or any other particular genre.

Born of Cuban, Chinese, and Scots-Irish ancestry, Duarte's music is as diverse as his origins.

His early childhood years were spent in Tigerville, South Carolina, an extremely small community in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It was there he came to understand the basics of life in that close-knit, rural community

where life was simple, where everyone's parents parented everyone else's kids, and music and song were an integral part of everyday life.

Somewhere along the line, Hugo's family moved to North Carolina where Duarte's musical influences drifted away from the native Bluegrass and traditional country music that had been so much a part of his life and began to take a new direction. He began to focus on the Allman Brothers, the Marshall Tucker Band, Poco, the Eagles, Billy Joel, Elton John, Pure Prairie League, the Outlaws, Loggins and Messina, and many others. And that focus didn't stop there. It also included styles as diverse as Jimi Hendrix, the Beatles, Crosby, Stills and Nash, Led Zeppelin, Glen Miller, John Phillip Sousa, and Aaron Copeland.

The defining moment in Duarte's young life occurred when his long-time friend, Darrell Stafford, loaned him a guitar, an old Stella that had once belonged to Stafford's grandmother. At a formative time in a boy's life, when dreams take root, when idealism is at its strongest, when words and melodies trigger the search for self, the loan of that old Stella marked a pivotal point on the compass in Hugo's young heart and mind.

Visualize a boy, with that old borrowed Stella, sitting by the radio, or dropping LPs onto a turntable and teaching himself to play along. This is the point where Hugo began developing his own brand of music, a style he dubbed "country music" because it wasn't that big a departure from what he'd grown up with. It was also during this time period that Hugo wrote his first song called "Dance For Me", a song about a ballerina.

As Duarte continued to develop his music skills using various music styles as his guide, whether it was Soul, Country, Beach music, Rock 'n Roll, Classical, a unique blend emerged and began to meld together into his brand of "All Music". Hence the origins of Hugo's eclectic style... a style that really began to surface while at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Growing increasingly serious about his music, Duarte left college and began playing clubs in Charlotte, North Carolina and then on the road in places like the 'Tween Waters Inn in Captiva, Florida and Crow's Nest in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. It wasn't long before he realized he could make a living doing what he loved the best.

A few years later as he drifted down that music highway playing gigs with his ever-expanding group, The Full Sail Band, he found himself as far south in the US as one can go. Searching for a connection to his Cuban heritage, he arrived in the Florida Keys and fell immediately in love with the area.

Hugo and The Full Sail Band strummed and sang at Rick's, Sloppy Joes, the Hog's Breath Saloon, Turtle Kraals, The Bull, The Top, and Casa Marina. Name it, Key West fans, and he's most likely played there.

It was in those early Key West years that Hugo met and developed a professional friendship with the Calypso Poet, Jimmy Buffett.

Over the years Buffett would call or stop by when he was in town, often sitting in with Hugo and the band. They occasionally shared the stage at a locally

owned bar called Del Rios, which today is the site of the original Margaritaville Bar and Restaurant.

Sometimes other friend-musicians stopped by as well. Anyone happen to be there on New Year's Eve when Hugo Duarte and The Full Sail Band made room on stage for Jimmy Buffett, Steve Winwood, and Steve Cropper?

Other Key West on-stage collaborations have included the likes of Sam Clayton, Russ Kunkel, Billy Dean, Fingers Taylor, Michael Utley, Robert Greenidge, and Larry Michael Lee. Larry Michael Lee is also the producer of Hugo's CDs, *Another Day In Paradise*, *Places Along the Road*, *Don't Be Fooled By The Hat*, and the newest release *LIVE* in Key West.

Yes, Hugo Duarte's music is unique. It demands something of the listener, especially if the listener really wants to "get it". Yes, you can put it on in the background and it will sound great, or you can choose to listen closely and that's when a door to a truly unique awareness really begins to open.

So...why settle for standing outside and peering through the window? Open that door and step inside...really inside, where you will hear, see, and feel the magic.



Hugo Duarte

- Currently living in the Wilmington area
- Attended the University of North Carolina-Charlotte
- Professional musician for 30 years
- Formerly lived in Charlotte, NC, Key West, FL, Nashville, TN
- Singer/songwriter with 3 recorded albums currently on the market
- Travels the entire US both as a solo as well as with his band
- Composed music for the film about Robert E. Harrill, “The Fort Fisher Hermit” including the song, “A Nickel and a Bad Name”
- Some of his compositions are historical in nature, i.e. “Legend”, “Hollywood”, “Song of the Sea”, and “Ring the Bells”
- Many of the songs are based on local interest from the areas where he has lived
- Performed with Jimmy Buffett on many occasions
- Performed with Charlie Daniels Band, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, and others
- Shared the stage with notables such as Fingers Taylor, Sam Clayton, Michael Utley, Russ Kunkel, Billy Dean, etc.
- Has growing numbers of fans that really love the songs he creates. It is not unusual to hear their many voices join in during his shows. His accessibility to his fans is one of the reasons they remain so dedicated.
- Described by fans as a great storyteller, a first-class songwriter, a talented musician and true Southern gentleman.
- Duarte blends of a bit of Country, a pinch of Bluegrass, a handful of Southern rock, a cup or two of Blues, a dash of Island music, occasionally sprinkled with some American history, or tales of the sea, to form an eclectic style that doesn't fit into the traditional definitions of the Rock and Roll world, the Tropical/Island sound, Blues, Country, or any other particular genre.
- “Song of the Sea” was written after Hugo was with the Mel Fisher crew on the day that the wreck of the “Nuestra Senora de Atocha was discovered and subsequently allowed to dive on the wreck of the Atocha days after it was discovered in July 1985.

Discography:

- **Places Along the Road - Catalog # HDPATR01**
- **Another Day in Paradise - Catalog # HDADIP02**
- **Don't Be Fooled By The Hat - Catalog # HDADIP03**
- **LIVE IN KEY WEST – Catalog # 809447000426**



Locked in Hollywood Cemetery

RAY MCALLISTER

Richmond Times-Dispatch

POINT OF VIEW column

Saturday, October 29, 2005

Two years ago, Hugo Duarte and his girlfriend got locked inside Richmond's historic Hollywood Cemetery.

That proved fortuitous -- even for him, and certainly for us.

Duarte, a North Carolina singer/songwriter, has responded with the heartfelt "Hollywood."

The Band-like lament from the resting place of soldiers is a centerpiece of Duarte's third CD, "Don't Be Fooled by the Hat." The CD is on sale online (see below) and expected to be in Tower Records here by Monday. Lite-98 FM will begin airing "Hollywood" and is scheduled to interview Duarte Nov. 11.

"I'm a big Civil War-period history buff," Duarte explained from his home in Wilmington. "It's what I do for my recreation. I'm always reading something."

His father was a college history professor, "so I caught it honestly. We went to many a battlefield that was never even marked."

Duarte was standing by Confederate Gen. George E. Pickett's grave when he realized he was locked in Hollywood. "It was getting on to dark and this whole vivid scene came to my mind."

During that extra half-hour, Duarte felt a message.

"It took me a long time to decipher the emotions," he says. "Once I figured it out, it was an easy write."

With poignant lyrics ("time marches on but it stands still here") and "Night-They-Drove-OL'-Dixie-Down" feel, "Hollywood" may be interpreted as "a Southern anthem," Duarte fears.

He repeats a line. " 'You heard in the silence how sorrow sounds.' That's the crux of the song. It's not only the sorrow and grief of the loss of a family member. I took it to be there was sorrow and grief over the conflict; that maybe if they had it to do over, they might not have done it."

Duarte, still performing with the Full Sail Band, has always been musically eclectic.

"Why Why Why," making its way on Internet radio stations, sounds like Cuban rhythm meets a Southern man -- with a Moog synthesizer in a love song worthy of any hopeless romantic.

"I'm Cuban, Chinese, Scots-Irish, raised in the Appalachians," Duarte says with a laugh, "so there's a wide field of influence in my life."

An earlier CD, "Another Day in Paradise," had an islands feel. Duarte, who will play in Key West next week during the annual convention of Jimmy Buffett fans, is friends with Buffett and also appeals to many of Buffett's fans.

"I do but it's not really intentional," he says. "I lived in Key West for four years, I went there to search out my Cuban roots. The Afro-Caribbean music influence, which people would call 'Parrot Head,' is in my blood.

"At the same time, I love Southern rock. I always thought that's what it was I was playing. People said, 'no, that's country.'"

Whatever it is, Richmonders may hear it on "Hollywood":



HOLLYWOOD

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I was doing that tourist thing in Richmond
Standing in Jefferson Davis' house
Just like Robert E. Lee
Somebody said if I thought I could
I ought to take a little trip out to Hollywood
You know that people out there know the story real good
Many saw it all first-hand

Made my way through the neighborhoods of "Old Town"
Drove my car right out of this world
As I passed through a wrought iron gate
There were stories of young men written in stone
Laying there together far away from home
Felt certain that I wasn't alone
As I rambled through the graveyard
A soft Virginia night was falling
And somewhere in the shadows
I thought I heard a Southern voice calling
Saying

Hey Boys this is Hollywood
It ain't home but it's home for good
We'd walk away from here if we just could
And never come back again
Hey Boys come gather 'round
Built your bivouac fires on this piece of ground
And a regiment formed without makin' a sound
In the hills of Hollywood

II

I was oddly more curious than fearful
Standing in the middle of a soldiers camp
Wondering why they couldn't see me
But these were boys from another time
And the world they were in wasn't part of mine
So I looked and I listened and I tried to find
The reason it was shown to me

A ragged soldier raised a fiddle
He put it to his collar underneath his jaw
And he rosined up the bow
It sounded familiar as it reached my ear

It was "Listen to the Mockingbird" and "Cheer, Boys Cheer"
And the notes that he bowed rang perfectly clear
As he played "Bonaparte's Retreat"
Somewhere a drummer took to playing
And in those lonesome cadences,
I thought I heard that sad voice saying

Hey Boys this is Hollywood
It ain't home but it's home for good
We'd walk away from here if we just could
And never come back again
Hey Boys come gather near
And he said it in a voice so that all could hear
Said time marches on but it stands still here
In the hills of Hollywood

III

When General Pickett strode right up to me
In a troubled voice he said,
"Y'ain't learned a damn thing from history

Tell people 'bout Hollywood
How it ain't home but it's home for good
That we'd a walked away from here if we just could
We'd a never come back again
Tell 'em what you saw when the sun went down
Tell 'em for my boys restin' in the ground
That ya heard in the silence how sorrow sounds
In the hills of Hollywood

Audience Comments and Feedback



"I know I can't be your BIGGEST fan, but I know every one of your songs and can tell you which song is one which album and I can sing them all. That list I handed you that night was first penciled out and was about 20+ songs long. I darkened with a purple pen my favorites out of the 10 songs I ripped that portion of paper off then handed you ... sorry if it was hard to read. Really though, I will listen to whatever you want to play, because I love 'em all!"

"I had never listened to Hugo Duarte before and had only heard stories of the man and everyone said he was good and you know what? I had a great time. I now have a new artist to add to my music collection and am listening to him sing Ring the Bells as I type this. I will never forget the stories Hugo told and how hard I laughed and still do when I hear one of those songs. You just don't get that in a larger venue. Under the stars, feet in the pool, sippin' ... (insert favorite libation here), smiling with friends and wanting the moment to last forever ... "

"Everyone that I talked to after the show really enjoyed it and would love to have you back whenever you get a chance. Also, thanks for taking the time to talk to me and to be able to get to know you more. Look forward to hearing you again and hope that you can get back soon."

"Thank you for making your music rich, diverse and complex. Your songs both entertain me and many make me think. Thank you. Second, please put out a new CD! I have seen you play at Hog's Breath, but it is considerably different in the more intimate setting of a House Concert. I especially enjoyed hearing the stories behind the songs."

"Your music is great and I especially enjoy the songs that make me think about them, about what you're saying. Many of your songs have that special, thought-provoking quality that I appreciate and don't generally find with other songwriters -- no matter how much I enjoy their songs. Your passion for music comes through so clearly when you play."

"I really enjoyed the opportunity to hear you and to hear the fascinating background to so many of your songs. The next few days at the office, my iPod was 'All Hugo All the Time' since I now understood the background to the songs."

"I have seen you many times but never like that. You were put into a whole new perspective for me yesterday."

"We had no idea what to expect when we agreed to host the music ... just that we both really enjoy your music. The fact that quite a few people got a chance to enjoy you as well was a bonus! We would like to thank you for your professionalism and the respect with which you treated the situation and our home. We are sold on doing it again in the future!"

"My wife and I had a great time at your house concert in Phoenix last Saturday. Terrific performance! It was such a pleasure seeing you in a small intimate venue. Too bad it was so cold that night because it would have been a trip to have you performing under the stars ... maybe next trip. Hopefully there will be a lot more next times."

"Hugo, your music speaks to me, I can't believe you aren't on the charts! Looking forward to seeing you again someday."

"I wanted to just thank you for a wonderful evening. I have already received several emails from those who attended commenting on how much they enjoyed the entertainment. I personally loved all of the songs that you wrote yourself. Your heart and soul truly showed in the lyrics and the music. 'Hollywood' and 'That's Just Dennis' were two of my favorites. It gave me cold chills!!!!"

A sincere pleasure to have met you and enjoy your superb creation of the song "Hollywood". My dear wife said it brought tears to her eyes as she listened at the memorial in Hollywood on Saturday. I felt the same feelings after listening to it on our return to New York. In the cemetery I was occupied filming y'all and shooting pictures and was not "in tune" with much of my feelings.

Sorry it took so long to write to tell you how much we have enjoyed the CD we bought on the Parrot Head cruise. I have heard you play in person 3 times before that, but until I bought the CD I really didn't realize just how good you are and how much I enjoy your music.

Last night on a late night drive from Pensacola home to Sarasota, I FINALLY got to listen to Don't Be Fooled by the Hat.

I have to tell you that I think you hit this one out of the park. Great songs...great production. Listening to this was like sitting down to read a great novel. Each chapter has it's own flavor, and they all hang together to tell the Great Story of Life.

I've heard you do these songs (most of 'em) and we've probably played them together a time or two, but hearing them straight through was great.

I had to listen to Hollywood three times in a row because it got to me so deeply. Great writing is all over this CD.

Keep up the good work. This one is now enshrined in my "must have" road tunes collection, and really sets the bar high for music I'd like to write and a CD I'd wish I'd made...

A Fan... Sunny Jim

If I haven't already said this your latest record is fabulous and worth all the anticipation. I had a scratchy "bootleg" video clip of We've Got Dreams that I listened to over and over, just keeping the well in my eyes from overflowing (yeah I get emotional with great songs), so happy to have the studio version now, and then I heard Hollywood and man, that song is incredible! Talk about getting lost deep into a song. I love it. Don't be Fooled by the Hat, Little Bit of Rain, all of it, all the way to Hidden River. You're awesome and thanks for the music!!

