



STEVE AZAR BIO

Music & Culture Ambassador of Mississippi, Steve Azar is a modern-day Renaissance man, hit songwriter, recording artist, music producer, consultant, golfer and philanthropist. Steve likes to call his own breed of music “Delta Soul,” a mixture of country, rock and blues.

His debut album *Waitin’ On Joe* was released in 2001. The title track went to #1 on CMT and featured Academy award-winning actor Morgan Freeman. From the same album the hit single “I Don’t Have To Be Me (‘til Monday)” received three BMI Million-Air awards for over 3 million in air plays and is one of the top five most played songs of the past decade on country radio. Turn on the radio today, and you’ll likely hear it.

Taylor Swift told *People Magazine* in 2010 that her favorite song of the year was Steve Azar’s “Sunshine.” *Slide On Over Here*, featuring the hit single “Sunshine,” was spotlighted in Oprah’s *O Magazine* in her *Oprah’s Favorite Things* edition in 2011. “Sunshine” was also featured in *US Weekly Magazine* in June 2012 as one of the most popular celebrity wedding songs.

Steve has written, and recorded songs for film and has been the music supervisor for a number of movies. “Doin’ It Right” (Delta Mix) off of the latest release *Delta Soul Volume One*, was the feature track for Sony. Steve wrote “Fly”, the official song for the 2015 *FIS Alpine World Ski Championships* in Vail. His performance at the opening ceremonies reached an audience of one billion households. “Fly” was also used as the feature song for Sony Pictures movie: *Paul Blart Mall Cop 2* starring actor Kevin James.

Pictures 2013 movie *Here Comes The Boom* starring Kevin James and Salma Hayek. As a songwriter, Reba McEntire among many others has cut his songs.

In 2007, Azar was personally chosen by Bob Seger to perform 46 shows on what has been rated the #1 Tour in America by *Pollstar Magazine*.

In April of 2016, Steve became the first artist to record a full-length studio album at the legendary Mississippi landmark, *Club Ebony*. A long time in the making, and his first record in 5 years, Steve cut 13 new original tracks. The club, now belonging to the *BB King Museum*, was turned into a recording studio capturing the rich history and vibe of the room and in turn inspiring incredible performances on the record. The album was made with the participation of The Kings Men, a group of musicians who backed BB King, Elvis Presley, and other musical kings. The combination of Steve's Delta songwriting approach and the band's musical background has created a unique and soulful sound that audiences will be hearing in the later part of 2017.

Steve Azar & The Kings Men made their live debut headlining 2016's *BB King Homecoming Festival*. The band headlined both the *Mississippi Night at The GRAMMY's* in Los Angeles during February 2017 and the *Mississippi Bicentennial Celebration in Jackson* in December of 2017. The new record is accompanied by a full-length feature documentary combining the making of the record with the musical trajectory of The Kings Men and the Mississippi Delta's important musical influence on the world music scene. The film, titled *Something In The Water*, was released in 2017.

An accomplished golfer, Steve has been ranked one of the top five musicians that play golf by *Golf Digest Magazine* numerous times. He is a frequent guest at charity golf tournaments across the country. In 2006, Steve and his wife Gwen started the *Steve Azar St. Cecilia Foundation*, and annually host the *Delta Soul Celebrity Golf & Charity Event*. Since its inception, the foundation has channeled nearly \$900,000 to many worthwhile causes in the Delta and beyond. Steve has additionally raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for charitable causes through the auctioning of songs. These songs are written for the highest bidder's charity of choice.

Steve has been honored with "Steve Azar Day" in the states of Mississippi (on March 13th) and South Dakota (on August 10th).

He is the co-founder of *Ride Records* and in 2013 co-founded the *Mighty Mississippi Music Festival*, dubbed "A Southern Gem" by the *American Blues Scene* magazine and included in *Acoustic Guitar* magazine's 2014 *Roadside Americana: 50 States 50 Must-Attend Events*.

With a keen interest in mentorship and giving back to the Delta, Steve enjoys being the artist in residence at the *Delta Music Institute*, part of *Delta State University*.

Governor Paul R. LePage has requested that all the Governors in the United States use Steve's song, "The Sky is Falling," as a way to spread awareness about the serious issue of human trafficking in America.

Steve is an in-demand keynote speaker. His speeches highlight the importance of giving back and that it is never too soon to start. From the sports world to the world of entertainment, Steve has had success and has also had his share of trials and tribulations; his speeches are full of the lessons learned.

In 2007 Steve narrated "Second Crossing: The Making of The Mississippi Bridge" for *Mississippi Department of Transportation* (MDOT). Later in 2016 his voice was used for a series of 12 short documentaries celebrating MDOT's 100th Anniversary.

2017 marks the bicentennial of the state of Mississippi. Steve has been appointed *Music & Culture Ambassador of Mississippi* and is working closely with the State of Mississippi in his official role. This position enables him to continue making a positive impact on the State's tourism and economy. His *Delta Soul Celebrity Golf & Charity Event* and *Mighty Mississippi Music Festival* have added millions in economic impact to the state. As ambassador Steve is making an even larger impact.

Steve is the recipient of the 2018 prestigious *Mississippi Arts Commission* "Governor's Choice Award".

In January 2018, Steve began hosting his own radio show and podcast "In A Mississippi Minute with Steve Azar". Steve takes on the other side of the interview asking the questions and talking with friends from all walks of celebrity sharing their stories to success and what's going on in their lives now. The show is broadcast throughout the state on *SuperTalk Mississippi* radio network and available nationally online and via podcast.

In February of 2019, he co-founded and hosted his first *Mockingbird Music Series*. A bi-monthly musical dinner series featuring intimate performances with some of Nashville's best and prolific award-winning songwriters, telling the stories behind their hits and performing them as originally written.

He was named to the 2019 class of *Mississippi Top 50* in the Business, Media and Culture category. *Mississippi Top 50* is an annual list of the people who are judged to be the most influential leaders in the state. This bipartisan selection of leaders comes from the ranks of elected and appointed officials, economic development professionals, business, media and government affairs.

In October of 2019, Azar was enshrined on the Mississippi Country Music Trail as the trail's 32nd marker was unveiled in Greenville, Mississippi. Governor Bryant was in attendance and spoke at the marker unveiling ceremony. Azar's class also included the legends Jerry Lee Lewis (Nesbit, MS) and Marty Gamblin (Philadelphia, MS) as well as Johnny Cash's "Starkville City Jail" track and Jimmie Rodgers' Bristol, Tennessee music sessions.

Also in 2019, Azar officially released the bicentennial anthem "One Mississippi" after a request from then Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant that Steve write the official song to commemorate the state's bicentennial anniversary. From slug burgers to The Muppets to the Natchez Trace Parkway, "One Mississippi" highlights the charm and history of the Magnolia State. The song was recorded at The Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Experience (The Max) in Meridian. The official music video, filmed and produced by Azar's son Strack, documents the recording session. [View Here](#)

Earlier this year Azar co-founded The Mighty Roots Music Festival. The inaugural event will be held October 2-3 on historic Stovall Farms, just outside of Clarksdale, MS and 70 miles south of Memphis, TN. The lineup promises a wide-ranging array of performers and a unique experience on the site of the old Stovall Gin Company cotton gin complex, which is being reinvigorated as a concert venue. More info at <https://www.mightyrootsmusicfestival.com/>

Steve is currently working on two record projects to be released summer and fall of 2020. The first is a 6-song EP to be called the Okra Sessions, made with Steve's band in collaboration with the talented students of the Delta Music Institute at Delta State University. Additionally, he will be putting out a compilation exclusive vinyl and digital release titled "My Mississippi Reunion" which will feature some NEW and some OLD songs, all about home.

For more information visit: www.steveazar.com

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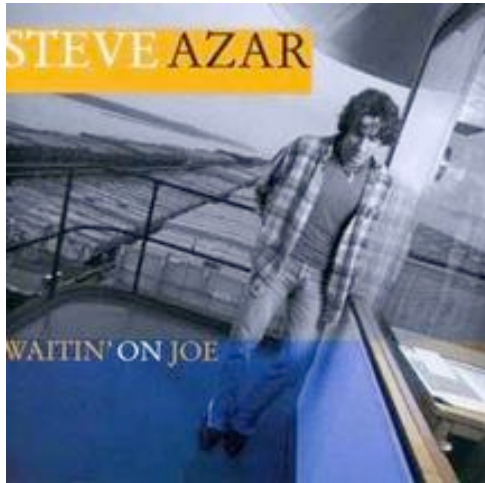
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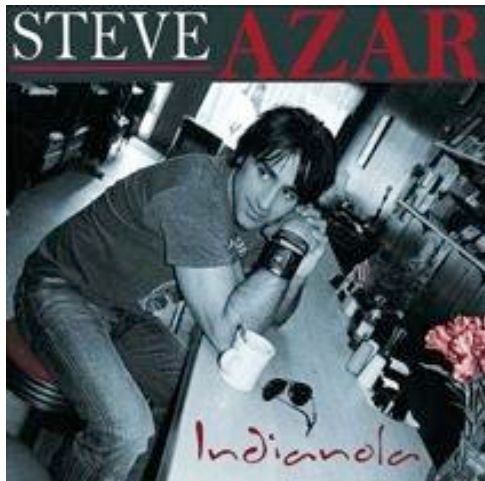
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DISCOGRAPHY



Waitin' On Joe (2002)

1. I Don't Have To Be Me ('Til Monday)
2. How Long Is This Time Gonna Be
3. Damn The Money
4. Waitin' On Joe
5. My Heart Wants To Run
6. The Underdog
7. One Good Reason Why
8. Lay Your Heart Next To Mine
9. Goin' To Beat The Devil (To See My Angel Tonight)
10. You Don't Know How It Feels
11. River's On The Rise



Indianola (2007)

1. Crowded
2. You Don't Know a Thing
3. You're My Life
4. Still Tryin' to Find My Way Around
5. Empty Spaces
6. What's Wrong with Right Now
7. The River's Workin'
8. I Won't Let You Lead Me Down
9. The Coach
10. Prelude
11. Flatlands
12. Bluestone
13. Indianola
14. Mississippi Minute
15. Highway 61



Slide On Over Here (2009)

1. I'll Find Me
2. Sunshine
3. All I Need
4. Moo La Moo
5. Hard Road
6. Come on Back to Memphis
7. Apart at the Seams
8. Sinkin' or Swimmin' (With You)
9. Take Your Time (Ryan's Song)
10. Let Go of the Rope
11. Sweet Delta Chains
12. Startin' Today
13. Beautiful Regret



Delta Soul - Volume One (2012)

1. Highway 61 (Delta Mix)
2. Flatlands (Delta Mix)
3. Mississippi Minute (Delta Mix)
4. Gonna Be Good Lovin' U (Delta Mix)
5. Bluestone (Delta Mix)
6. Indianola (Delta Mix)
7. Doin' It Right (Delta Mix)
8. Goin' To Beat The Devil (Delta Mix)
9. The River's Workin' (Delta Mix)



Down At The Liquor Store (2018)

1. Rena
2. Start To Wanderin' My Way
3. Tender and Tough
4. Wake Me From The Dead
5. Down At The Liquor Store
6. She Just Rolls With Me
7. I Don't Mind (Most of the Time)
8. Chance I'll Take
9. Over it All
10. Road Isn't There Anymore
11. These Crossroads
12. Ode To Sonny Boy
13. Greenville

<http://steveazar.com/media/music/>