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JOE POWERS

HARMONICA

BIOGRAPHY

Aunt Susana didn't know what she was starting when she slipped a harmonica into Joe's Christmas stocking when he was two years old. As a renegade teenager, Joe shunned passé strings and horns in middle school band class in favor of Aunt Susana's hand-held gift that harmonized with more passion and soul than any boring old tuba.

After perfecting his technique for a decade and receiving formal training at the University of Oregon 's School of Music , the 27-year-old became a home-town hero for representing the United States at the 2005 World Harmonica Festival in Germany and placing fourth in the world in the jazz diatonic category.

The championships marked Joe's European debut. He opened for Narcotango, the world-famous Argentine tango/electronica sextet, at the Mephisto Bal in Paris . In Stuttgart , Germany , he joined lounge-pop sensation, Pink Martini for a sold-out concert at Der Theaterhaus. The tour led him to Beograd , Serbia , where he performed with pianist, Nada Kolundzija for the Japanese ambassador to Serbia .

Since then Joe has performed at events around the world including the 2007 Harmoicas Sur Cher Festival in St. Aignan France, the Tangofolies Festival in Lausanne Switzerland where he shared the bill with Color Tango, the 2007 London Tango Extravaganza, the 2006 World Tango Festival in Tokyo, the 2006 world Tango Championships in Paris ,and he performed and taught for the Amsterdam harmonica Association's 2007 galla concert.

In February 2007 Joe traveled to Buenos Aires to record his debut solo Album, "Amor de Tango" with some of the country's finest Tango musicians including; Latin Grammy Nominee, Nicolas Ledesma - piano, Horacio Cabarcos - bass, and Raul Luzzi - guitar.

In 2006 Joe was a semi-finalist in Belgium 's 2006 international harmonica competition, "Les Harmonicas De Cristal".

Blending jazz, Tango, Blues, and chamber music, Joe is revolutionizing the harmonica with his own unique sound. Aunt Susana should be proud.