



Richie Owens – Bio

Music isn't just in Richie Owens' blood, it's in every muscle and sinew of his body, not to mention his soul. Credit it to a bloodline that runs from the hills of Northern Wales to the mountains of East Tennessee and on to the backstreets, music clubs and studios of Nashville. But it's also the result of a life dedicated to absorbing musical influences, fusing them with his own talent and voice, and making music the hard and simple way, with heart, soul and determination.

Growing up, it was harder for Richie to find relatives who weren't making music than for those who were. His grandfather, the Rev. Jake Owens was a fire and brimstone preacher, a songwriter, music teacher, and an old-time country fiddler who could tear up a tune on "The Devil's Box" on a Saturday night. He reared a family of eight children who became musicians, singers, and storytellers, passing their birthright on to their descendants. Richie's father, Louis Owens, was a singer, songwriter, guitar player, record producer, and DIY country music entrepreneur who played an important role in helping to build the career of his niece, Dolly Parton.

Despite Richie's deep roots in country music, by the time he was a teenager, he was a rock fan like any kid growing up in the 1970s. Grabbing onto punk spirit in the late 70s, Richie fused his love for the Beatles and bluegrass with a dash of The Damned and the Sex Pistols. The result made him a founding father of the Nashville punk and alternative rock scene, with his 1980s bands, The Resistors and The Movement, his self-built studio, The Refuge, and his label, Neo Records, one of the first Nashville-based indie rock labels.

Over the next several decades, Richie's creative flame burned brightly as a bandleader, record producer, studio engineer, musician, and instrument designer. He's worked with a varied list of artists, including The Georgia Satellites, Social Distortion, Television guitarist Richard Lloyd, The Kentucky Headhunters, Michael Stipe of R.E.M., Vince Gill, and many more. He also kept his family ties in place, producing Dolly Parton's acclaimed 1998 album, *Hungry Again*; followed by her 1999 gospel album, *Precious Memories*; and the 2024 Dolly Parton & Family album, *Smoky Mountain DNA*, along with backing Dolly for many live appearances.

At the same time, he stayed true to his family legacy storytelling as a songwriter and kept the faith in creating vital, innovative music through his bands, Richie Owens & the Farm Bureau and The Smoky White Devils. In 2020, following a series of personal tragedies and challenges, including the death of his parents and his brother, Richie began writing a series of songs that embodied all the varied musical threads of his career fused with the timeless mountain narrative traditions that were his birthright. Richie crafted an album that wasn't a "reinvention," but rather a "reconstruction" of his music and voice. The resulting album, *Reconstruction*, was one of those great sonic game-changers that fit perfectly alongside an artist's past work while pointing in a bold new direction.

Staying true to his course, Richie drew deep from the same narrative well for his current release, *Redemption*. Filled with tales of venal sins and hymns of hopeful compassion, alongside equal measures of justified anger and thoughtful reflection, stark truthfulness and sardonic wit, the album is not exactly about our times, but it's certainly for our times. While the path ahead may seem overgrown and lost, the ancient road map to *Redemption* still marks the trail.

For press information about Richie Owens or Owepar Entertainment, please contact Jim Flammia jim@alleyesmedia.com at All Eyes Media