

Hunter Courts Bio

Hunter is a 29-year-old man on a mission; an accomplished crooner who makes it a point to remind today's audiences that *The Great American Songbook* remains the standard in every era.

Indeed, Hunter's stirring vocals and original interpretations have made him a sensation in his native Texas, thanks to standout performances across a wide range of venues both in-state and beyond. While artists like Michael Bublé and Harry Connick Jr. also keep standards in the spotlight, Hunter brings a new edge to the crooner tradition –a fresh, modern sound that connects effortlessly with a new generation.

Hunter's unique in other ways as well. He hails from an area whose musical roots are decidedly distinct and quite unlike his own.

"I grew up in a small town in Southeast Texas, where most people gravitated toward swamp pop, country, or honky-tonk," Hunter recalls. "But I was drawn to timeless standards. Audiences didn't expect a young man let alone a child step into that world – and they've embraced it since the beginning. My goal is to show that this music can speak powerfully to a new generation."

His passion and persistence have clearly paid off. Hunter has steadily graduated to larger, more prestigious stages—from restaurants and hotels to dinner shows, private clubs, and high-profile galas. His biggest milestone came when he won the Frank Sinatra Sing-Off, an annual competition held in Sinatra's hometown of Hoboken, New Jersey. Encouraged by Ricky Davis, a noted Sinatra-style vocalist and mentor, Hunter applied, was selected to compete, and ultimately took home first prize.

Still, that was only the beginning. Hunter recently teamed up with Grammy Award-nominated producer David Percefull. His first single - a vibrant take on the Arthur Johnson and Johnny Burke classic "Pennies From Heaven"—cements his vocal prowess. Produced, arranged, recorded, mixed, and mastered by Percefull at Yellow DOG Studios in San Marcos, Texas, it finds Hunter conveying this classic tune with a confidence and clarity that easily rivals any of the covers that came before.

"I was blown away," Percefull insists. "Hunter arrived for his first session and nailed the part in his first take. He's a complete and total natural at the crooner game."

The track features a standout ensemble: Armin Marmolejo on trombone; Percefull himself on mellotron, vibes, and bass guitar; Rube Harrison on piano; Phil Hook on drums; and Mark Smith covering alto, tenor, and baritone saxophones – bringing rich, vintage textures to Hunter's timeless performance as well as Marmolejo and Smith regularly performed in the Frank Sinatra Orchestra.

In truth, this and an upcoming album are the natural culmination of a career that originated at a very early age. Because he was not interested in sports, his parents were anxious to find something else that would occupy his interests. He was fixated on Disney movies and

became hooked on Sinatra. He listened to his music on the radio and eventually started singing along. That led him to discover other classic crooners as well.

“I realized that I loved that style of music, so I started indulging in it,” Hunter recalls. “I haven't stopped since. “In second grade, I entered a talent show and sang a Josh Groban song. I noticed people in the audience were crying, and I didn't understand why. I actually thought I had upset them somehow. Later, my mom explained they were tears of joy – that my voice had moved them. That moment really stuck with me.”

As the years went on, his singing matured and became even better. In high school, he became involved in musical theater, which led him to becoming a high school theater major and performing in a variety of stage productions as well as show choir.

Once he graduated from school, Hunter put that confidence to work and landed his first gig at The Pompano Club in Port Neches, Texas. That soon led to other opportunities and his singing career steamrolled from there.

A nearby community theater also provided an ideal opportunity for Hunter to showcase his theatrical skills. From that point on, over the course of the past 25 years, he's been able to attract and entertain crowds through word of mouth that have been awestruck by his tremendous talent and stellar skills. In addition to his solo performances, he's also worked with various ensembles, including the Ricky Davis Band, the Golden Triangle Big Band, Hunter Courts & The Vintage Collective, and the Symphony of Southeast Texas.

In the process, he's become determined to revive the music that serves as a soundtrack for earlier generations, specifically, the songs sung by Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Bobby Darin, Dean Martin, Elvis Presley, Elton John, and Billy Joel. He's been referred to as the definitive “modern-day crooner and featured on the cover of Greater Port Arthur - The Magazine and The Entertainment Guide.

All of this was no small triumph. Diagnosed with Tourette's Syndrome early on, he's been able to overcome his disabilities with the help of the Tourette Syndrome Association of Texas. He's repaid their efforts by performing at their benefits.

Above all, this remarkable experience has given Hunter the opportunity to share his love of *The Great American Songbook*. He hopes to introduce it to younger audiences, bring back memories for its older admirers, and ensure that the music lives on for future generations and never fades away.

“When asked about his aspirations, Hunter says “I've always wanted to go on a tour. That's always been a dream of mine. And I believe the connections I've made will push me closer to that goal. I love singing, I love recording, and I love celebrating this music. My hope is to share it as much and as often as I can – to bring people back to a time and an era in music that was truly special, unique and well worth celebrating.”