EDMONDS CENTER for the ARTS

2024|2025 Digital Patron Program

Joshua Radin & Ron Pope

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Fall Tour 2024

JOSHUA RADIN

Rather than wait for inspiration to strike, Joshua Radin will seek it out wherever possible. His search for inspiration led him to hit the road in 2022. He left his material existence in the rearview, grabbed a backpack, packed his guitar, picked up a pen and a pad, and sought new stories to tell.

"I felt like I was going to live the life of a kid on a gap year after high school," he smiles. "However, it has helped my writing and my soul. I feel so much freer."

He's certainly earned this season. Back in 2004, Joshua emerged as an emphatic songwriter, and often enthralling troubadour. Over the years, he's called north of 1 billion streams, moved 1 million-plus albums worldwide, and even scored a gold certification for the single "I'd Rather Be With You." His music has appeared in over 200 films, television series, and commercials. In addition to multiple showstopping appearances on Ellen (which also enlisted him to perform at her wedding) and Today Show, as well as performances on The Tonight Show, Jimmy Kimmel LIVE!, and Conan, he contributed "Brand New Day" to a commercial in support of the troops at the request of his friends Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden. He played to sold out crowds around the globe and shared the stage with the likes of Ed Sheeran, Sara Bareilles, Ingrid Michaelson, Sheryl Crow, Tori Amos, Imogen Heap, and The Script. Not to mention, he's a staunch philanthropist who supports Little Kids Rock and North Shore Animal League America (NSALA), among others. Thus far his catalog consists of nine full-length offerings highlighted by fan favorites such as We Were Here, Simple Times, Underwater, Wax Wings, and Here, Right Now, to name a few.

2021 saw him release The Ghost and The Wall to widespread acclaim. Parade hailed "Goodbye" as "breathy, gorgeous and intimate," and American Songwriter promised, "A more beautiful set of ballads would be hard to come by." Riff Magazine rated it "9-out-of-10," while No Depression assessed, "As long as Radin remains his honest and the melodies this sweet there's every reason to believe he'll have enough to say for his next 15 years in the business."

However, he also left his previous life behind and traveled with nothing more than the essentials (and enough tools to be creative). Recorded in places such as Stockholm, Paris, and London, he first translated this inspiration into though the world will tell me so, volume one, released in January 2023. Tracks like the softly anthemic "I'm Just Different," piano-laden "Broken," and "Running Free Again" instantly reacted with audiences. The full picture came into focus with the follow-up though the world will tell me so, vol. 2. Given he's learned as of late glistened at the heart of the five-track EP.

In 2025, he turns the page on the next chapter of his career and life with his tenth full-length LP and first independent album since 2017, One Day Home. Joshua devoted more time to this body of work than any other release in his catalog. Immersing himself in the process mind, body, and soul, he poured over these 13 tracks, tinkering and perfecting each moment. Sessions often stretched from the evening into the early morning as he emphasized the purity of the acoustic instrumentation on these recordings. He notably co-produced six songs alongside Wally Gagel, while Jonathan Wilson helmed the remaining seven tunes. This time around, he prepared the music for a double-LP release with one half original studio versions of the 13 songs and the other piano vocal versions.

"I've been writing and recording songs for twenty years," he reflects. "I continue to suffer from Impostor Syndrome', perhaps because I began this musical journey so much later in life than my peers. I always think this feeling will take away, but it never does. I want to put music into the world that is implicitly ME, so here is One Day Home."

Reflecting both his natural impulses and personal sonic palette, he nodded to formative inspirations from Motown soul singers and Laurel Canyon-era singer-songwriters. As such, One Day Home strikes an uncanny balance between two seemingly disparate styles in pursuit of a common theme. "I really tried to combine those two genres," he goes on. "This album is about love and loss. It's the journey of a romantic relationship—the ups and downs, the first stronger than the actual connection, the ecstasy of finding a likeminded soul, and the devastation of losing them. It's about finding out what the word 'Home' actually means."

He introduces this season with the single "Let Me Be Right"—released in its original studio version and as a piano-vocal version for a digital two-pack. A delicate piano melody underscores emotionally charged vocals punctuated by his passionate sense of soul. He grapples with the search for love as he pleads on the chorus, "Let me be right, let this go on and on before this moment's gone."

"Sometimes, I feel like I'm running and running afraid to stop," he admits. "After twenty years, I'm still terribly confused about this world, what people want from me, and what I'm able to give. I know this. When I find the right person for me, I'll be right."

The piano echoes through soft strings on "You don't Need Anyone." Barely cracking a whisper, he assures, "You don't need anyone to take care of you, but if you do, I still want to." He continues, "I've had a few romantic relationships in the past and I've lost. Most importantly, I've learned. As Lincoln said, 'I walk slowly but never backwards.' One thing I've realized about myself is that I'm just not able, no matter how hard I've tried, to be everything for someone."

During the closer "Back To Forever," gentle acoustic guitar murmurs beneath his soothing delivery, "I know that loving me is a never-ending story." Then, there's "I'm Coming Home." The stark instrumentation boosts the sense of soul as he promises, "I'm coming home for my baby, now."

No matter where the journey takes him, that's exactly what he does. He leaves off, "A better version of me happens every year. Wiser for sure, but definitely more confused in general about what I truly want out of life. I stay curious, questioning everything and everyone, and this is how art gets made."

RON POPE

In the months following the release of his critically acclaimed album "Bone Structure," Nashville-based singer-songwriter, Ron Pope, felt lost. A hometown tornado and a pandemic will do that to a person. Unfortunately for Pope, tangled amongst the rubble was an album release and months of touring that abruptly came to a halt. For an album that he penned while reflecting on his own mortality, it seemed almost apropos.

While his career was put on pause, he effectively became a stay-at-home dad. Slowly, his priorities shifted as he realized that not only could this time be looked at as a gift, but it could be used as an opportunity to reimagine what his life could look like in the future. Why sit in the same formulaic cycle? Why seek validation from places that didn't care to give it?

In asking these questions of himself, he realized that the community his music created was also seeking answers to similar questions. Weekly online shows allowed free conversations and inspired creativity. Pulling from unreleased songs and reimagined fan favorites, Pope decided to embark on a year of connecting and leaning into the community that has supported him all along.

It was time to let go of preconceived notions about what was expected of him. It was time to take a step back and focus on what really mattered. It was time to rebuild.

After completely scrapping early recording sessions for his album Bone Structure (released 6, 2020), Pope set out on a new path, crafting incredibly candid songs directed squarely at his newborn daughter. Some songs speak to her directly and muse on the experience of fatherhood, while others reflect on a personal experience that has a lesson or a moral. Pope's 2017 release, "Work," drew comparisons to Tom Petty and Bruce Springsteen, while also refusing to put him squarely into one category. Uncompromising and relentless, Pope has evolved into one of the top grossing independent acts in the business while garnering a legion of devoted fans the world over. Taking the industry-could-less-care-about-fans-being fiercely to his independence has proven fruitful for Pope; to date, he has sold out shows on five continents and in more than 20 countries, sold over 2 million digital tracks, has nearly half a billion streams on Spotify, 880 million plays on Pandora, 150 million views on Youtube, and has generally crushed every metric used to measure what is possible for most independent artists.