

It hurts. It delights. It inspires. Love.

BY NATALIE JOHNSON
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The A-J asked several musicians their views on love songs.

Doctor Skoob, mix of funky Americana folk rock, from Lubbock

Skoob said music for him has always been an expression of feelings and emotion, especially those that are difficult to say otherwise, and what greater emotion is there than love?

"It is one of great tragedy that we have all shared," he said.

"We have all loved someone that has not loved us back. We have all loved someone that didn't love us as much as we loved them, and we have all probably loved someone that had absolutely no idea how we felt. This is pure songwriting gold."

He said it is that feeling that creates great art.

"My lyrics are unforced," he said. "They are the easy part of my job."

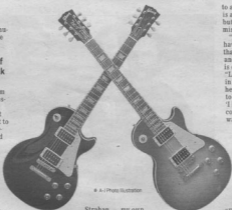
"The words merely tell the stories that all the love and heartbreak have already written."

Jeff Strahan, Texas blues and Americana, from Durango, Colo.

"I think all songs just come out of you," he said. "I wrote 'Supernatural' in 19 to 15 minutes without many revisions about the woman in my life, Lois."

"We first became friends and then started dating, and I always called her Lois Lane. So the song lyrically just came together."

"Love is such a powerful emotion, it is hard to open up and sing about it in a song."



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Strahan said "Supernatural" catches the attention of people because once you listen to the lyrics it draws you in.

"It is one of my most requested songs," he said.

Cody Hughes Davidson, Texas country and Americana, from Midland

Davidson said writing love songs is easy.

"I know the feelings," he said. "I have been in love before. It is a way I express myself. I like to be a storyteller about life, and love is a part of life."

The only way to describe love is if you have felt it, and Davidson has felt the range: like, lust and love.

He wrote "Last Call to Boston." The chorus goes: "I'll hold you for one more moment/They can have you soon enough/You're still mine until the last call to Boston."

"I believe that if you put your heart and soul into it or who you wrote it for, the crowd can actually feel that it is genuine," Davidson said. "I express more when I sing

my own material."

Thomas Champagne, funky reggae, from Austin

Champagne said the idea of the love song has changed.

"Music is emotionally based, and the classic love songs are not around anymore," he said. "Life is so fast, and morals have changed completely."

A love song can be about a boy and girl or about a girl and boy. The love song itself it is still there, but presented in a new way."

He said love songs don't have to be about human interaction, but loving something whether it's an idea or passion or object. He wrote a song called "Coffee Table."

"All the things in my life and all that I was used to were all centered around the coffee table," said Champagne, laughing. "It was what I was really going to miss: sitting in my living room with my friends."

He said he left behind the coffee table when he moved

to another city, and the song is about missing an object, but in reality it is about missing friends and family.

"In this day and age, you have to tell a story way more than, 'Come get into my car and be my girl forever.' Life is complicated," he said. "Love songs can be spoken in an angry tense, like in heavy metal. If you listen to the words you can hear, 'I love this person.' It just comes out in a different way."

Josh Free, eclectic alterna-pop, from Los Angeles

"There are countless subjects that a writer can explore, but very few of them are as timeless and relevant as love," Free said. "Each song teaches you something new, and each new experience becomes part of the writing process."

He said everyone has some experience with the giant among emotions, and yet as much as you can feel and be in love, it seems that this intangible sensation is much more.

Andy Eppler, original folk, from Lubbock

Eppler said musicians write love songs because it is the easiest thing to write about.

"All the clichés work, and it's easy to write even if you aren't that inspired," he said. "A songwriter knows that a love song will always sell."

People love to listen to songs about love, even if the song isn't particularly well written."

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