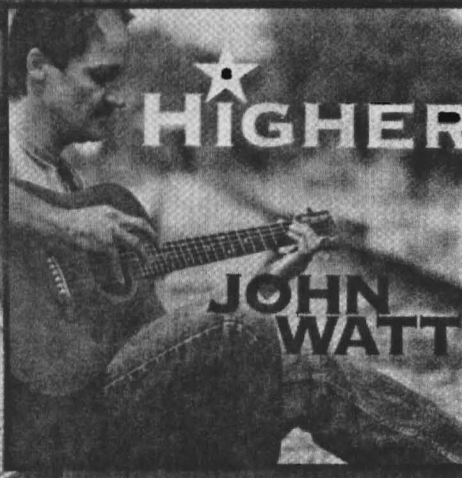


Columnists
Editor's Pic
Night Life
Calendar
Special Issues

CityWeekly

www.OmahaCityWeekly.com

Check it out...



John Watt
"Higher"
JohnWatt.com

John Watt has some Texas rambler in him. Actually, he has a lot of rambler in him. The singer-songwriter no doubt absorbed more of that Lone

Star State vibe in March when he was in Austin for the South By Southwest Music Festival. However, while his style might be Texas-flavored, his roots as a songsmith are in the Midwest, where Watt lives.

What comes out most on Watt's new CD, "Higher," is the Iowan's knack and sense for clean, crisp and catchy ditties. His vocal chops, too, come up smooth on such songs as "She Needs Me," "Going to the Country" and the melancholy "Emily." Best example of a rambler from this rambler: "Houston Blues" chugs along nicely.

The 40-year-old Watt – blind since the age of 18 – is a savvy songwriter who has surrounded himself with fine backing musicians on "Higher." From acoustic and electric guitars to perfectly placed harp and keys, the music shines.

For those who gravitate to acoustic-based, country-tinged rock and folk, Watt is your man. The 14-song set is solid and will keep your attention all the way through. – JM

THE CITY WEEKLY JUNE 15-21 2005