



Singer-songwriter John Arthur Martinez in his 'home made of stone' in Cottonwood Shores, which has become a stage for Facebook Live concerts during COVID-19 stay-at-home orders. Photo by Ronnie Madrid/Divine Radiance Photography

Music *from the* hearth

John Arthur Martinez learns to survive in the music industry under COVID-19 restrictions

By **Suzanne Freeman**

EDITOR

Singer-songwriter John Arthur Martinez is supposed to be in Spain right now on another of his almost annual European tours. Instead, fans from around the world, including Switzerland, Austria, the Netherlands, Germany, France, and Belgium, have been coming to his living room in Cottonwood Shores to listen to his unique brand of country music. He actually has a hashtag for the whole situation.

"For musicians, we have a new normal," said Martinez, referring to life under stay-at-home orders in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 that has reached pandemic levels. "mynewnormal is that I have been doing house concerts from my home, and I have been sharing them with my fans from around the world."

Martinez has been on 13 European tours,

building a large fanbase that is happy to hear him even if only via Facebook Live. One bonus is the ability for everyone to interact with him and each other via the chat function. Martinez keeps up with the chats, taking requests and sharing stories throughout a performance.

This feature acted as emotional support in the first two concerts he performed from home. His father died the morning of the first performance, March 29. Martinez's sisters insisted that his dad, Adam Correa Martinez, a musician whose band backed up Freddy Fender, would want the show to go on.

The day before the next concert, just two weeks later, his youngest of four grown children was rushed to the hospital. He and wife Yvonne spent the entire night in the hospital parking lot since they could

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