

A Powerful Song and Music Video were Born in COVID Lockdown as Johnny Schaefer Cared for His Cancer-Stricken Mother

Commanding Vocals and Brilliant Production Pack an Emotional Wallop in a Power Ballad that Reminds Us to Focus on What Really Matters

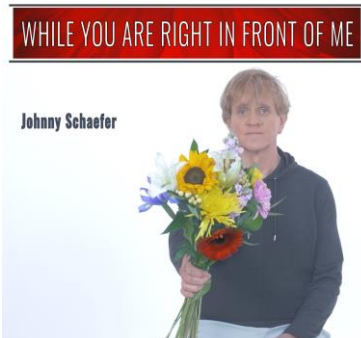
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Singer-songwriter Johnny Schaefer begins his stunning ballad *While You are Right in Front of Me* with hushed statements about a tendency not to do or think about things until it's too late:

*"I don't think much about breathin'
Until I'm turnin' blue
I never spend any time grievin'
'til suddenly, it's all I do"*

"I was in Olympia, WA with my husband as caregivers for two parents who were in hospice care at home. My stepfather died in July and my mother died in November of

2020. It was a sacred honor to be with them during their transition. In addition to that, we were in lockdown due to COVID restrictions, so I think most of us were doing a lot of soul-searching about what is important, what we want to accomplish in life, and how we want to spend our time. I wrote a lot of music during those days and *While You are Right in Front of Me* is a song that came from the realization that there really is no time like the present to express our love for each other.



*"I need to tell you that I love you
While you are right in front of me."*

The opening line about turning blue is actually a reference to Schaefer's battle with a condition called Vocal Cord Dysphonia. "Several years ago, allergies and asthma along with common digestive issues resulted in my vocal cords freezing up and me being unable to breathe for an extended period of time. Loved ones told me that I literally turned blue." Through a combination of hydration and use of a



humidifier, diet adjustments, meditation, and a trick where he lifts his hands above his head when he feels his throat closing up, Schaefer has been able to manage the condition. 'I thought at one point that I wouldn't be able to sing anymore,' he says. "I'm grateful that I was able to find an approach that worked. I'm a big believer in holistic solutions."

Based in Los Angeles, CA, Johnny Schaefer is an eclectic singer-songwriter with a BA in Music (Composition and Voice) from California State University Fullerton. He has sung back up for Josh Groban,

Melissa Manchester, Sarah Brightman, Sarah Vaughn, Pete Townsend, Diahann Carroll, and Billy Idol. His recent release, *Unflown*, was a semi-finalist in the 2020 UK Songwriting Contest in both the Best Video and Best Original Song categories. He has been a cantor at Blessed Sacrament Church in Hollywood, California since 1981. With over 100,000 social media followers, Johnny's interviews are widely viewed by his audience. He is available to discuss his work in any interview format by contacting Gwendolyn Young, Young Communications Group, at 213-263-2290, gyoung@youngcomms.com. His website is www.hearjohnny.com, where you'll find an EPK and links to all social media, streaming and video sites.