

# Alan Peppard: No discs for Jerry Jeff Walker

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**Jerry Jeff Walker** had a mature music career when the Jonas Brothers and Miley Cyrus were zygotes. But while younger artists have been buffeted by the rapid changes in the record business, Jerry Jeff and his manager wife, **Susan**, have consistently pushed the envelope to create new economic models for recording artists.

That work continued on Friday when the 67-year-old Austin-based singer released his latest album, *Moon Child*, exclusively as a digital download. The Walkers have no plans to press discs.

"When Jerry Jeff wanted to record another – we don't even know what to call them anymore – album or compilation," says Susan, "I said, 'It's silly to manufacture CDs.' I showed him our numbers. Downloads account for at least 90 percent of what people are buying. Just 10 percent are buying CDs. I asked him, 'Who are these people, and can't we bring them into this century? You know, just nudge them along.' "

## **Tried & True history**

In 1985, after years of frustration with industry biggies, Susan and Jerry Jeff Walker offered a Bronx salute to the record companies in Nashville and opened their own label, Tried & True Music, in Austin.

But even before that, Jerry Jeff was giving industry execs fits. He recorded his first album for MCA, 1972's *Jerry Jeff Walker*, in Austin's Pecan Street Studios, but refused to use a mixing board. Those loose and funky sessions yielded the single "L.A. Freeway" and the fan favorite, "Hill Country Rain."

His second MCA album, 1973's *Viva Terlingua*, was recorded live in Luckenbach and resulted in **Gary P. Nunn's** iconic recording of "London Homesick Blues" and Jerry Jeff's version of "Up Against the Wall Redneck Mother."

"We did the first album without a board," says Jerry Jeff, "and then we went to Luckenbach and did it without a studio."

*Moon Child* is available at JerryJeff.com. On Nov. 16, it will be released on iTunes and Amazon.