



Doyle Bramhall II is one of the most distinctive vocalists, guitarists, composers and producers in contemporary music. Indeed, none other than Eric Clapton, with whom Bramhall has worked with for more than a decade, lauds him as one of the most gifted guitarists he has ever encountered.

As the son of the late Texas music legend Doyle Bramhall, he was raised in a home filled with the blues and rock 'n' roll styles indigenous to Texas. The elder Bramhall played drums and was also an accomplished songwriter and vocalist, not to mention a lifelong collaborator with childhood friends Stevie Ray and Jimmie Vaughan, who composed such SRV signature tunes as “Change It” and “Life by the Drop.”

But the younger Bramhall—a rare and distinctive guitarist who plays left-handed, but with his instrument strung for a right-hander and flipped backwards--had his own connections with the Vaughan brothers: Early in his career he was befriended and supported by Stevie. When he was 18, Bramhall was recruited by Jimmie to play with the Fabulous Thunderbirds. After Stevie’s tragic death in 1990, Bramhall II and Charlie Sexton formed the

Arc Angels with Stevie Ray's fabled Double Trouble rhythm section of drummer Chris Layton and bassist Tommy Shannon.

The Arc Angels' self-titled debut album yielded such widely popular songs as "Living in a Dream" and "Sent by Angels" before disbanding. Introducing himself as a solo artist in 1996 with *Doyle Bramhall II*, he followed with a pair of critically acclaimed albums, *Jellycream*(1999) and *Welcome* (2001). It was then that Bramhall's unparalleled guitar mastery won the attention not only of Clapton but Pink Floyd's Roger Waters, who showcased him on his 1999, 2000 and 2002 *In the Flesh* concert tours and companion CD and DVD.

Clapton, meanwhile, came next. He featured Bramhall songs and guitar as part of his Grammy-winning *Riding with the King* album with B.B. King, also of 2000. He then recruited him full-time, and they toured together worldwide, thrilling fans with their dramatic guitar interplay and drawing comparisons to past Clapton triumphs such as Derek & the Dominoes. Clapton's ensuing 2004 albums *Me and Mr. Johnson* and *Sessions for Robert J* both showcased stirring Clapton-Bramhall guitar duets recorded in the same Dallas room where Robert Johnson recorded his classic blues songs in 1937. Bramhall's own songwriting talent was highlighted in Clapton's *Reptile* (2001), *Back Home* (2005) and *The Road to Escondido*(2006) albums, and he later co-produced *Clapton* (2010) and *Old Sock*(2013). In 2013 he again joined Clapton on his 50th anniversary tour and played on his 2014 album *The Breeze: An Appreciation of JJ Cale*.

In addition to his work with Clapton, Bramhall became an in demand composer, guitarist and producer. He enjoyed high profile collaborations producer, with a broad range of other major artists, including T-Bone Burnett, Elton John, Gary Clark, Jr., Gregg Allman, Dr. John, Robert Randolph, Allen Toussaint, Billy Preston, Erykah Badu, Questlove, Meshell Ndegeocello and Sheryl Crow, for whom he contributed songs and produced *100 Miles from Memphis* (2011) and performed on her tour supporting it. In 2015 he teamed with ace Allman Brothers Band guitarist Derek Trucks (with whom he was proclaimed "The New Guitar Gods" by *Guitar World* when both served in Clapton's band in the late 2000s) in the Tedeschi Trucks Band, also starring Trucks' wife Susan Tedeschi. Bramhall's songs and guitar playing have

graced each of the three, critically acclaimed Tedeschi Trucks Band albums issued to date.

With all this outside activity, Bramhall hadn't made a solo album since *Welcome*. But besides honing his skills as a producer, he had stockpiled for himself songs apart from those written for others, and when they were selected and sequenced for his fourth solo album, ***Rich Man***, (scheduled for release on September 30, 2016 via Concord Records), they documented an intensive spiritual and musical journey that took him to the other side of the world in search of new sounds, and an inner peace sought following the death of his father in 2011.

In the four years following his father's death he had extensively explored India and Northern Africa, these trips being manifest on ***Rich Man***'s inclusion of the North Indian classical bowed string instrument *sarangi*—played by virtuoso Ustad Surjeet Singh—and the bowl-shaped Arabic *oud* lute, played by Bramhall's own oud teacher Yuval Ron, the renowned Israeli composer-player-arranger.

Also appearing on ***Rich Man*** is Norah Jones, with whom Bramhall had been performing with every six months or so in a concert series. The duet "New Faith" was emblematic of the entire album in its hope that people can look beyond all that divides them and find a new way of thinking that enables peaceful progress through mutual respect and understanding.

Rich Man, then, is a watershed achievement for Bramhall, both in terms of the many music styles in the tracks—which begin and end with his fundamental American blues influences and in between follow his global music explorations and arrangements—and the inner examinations resulting in the spiritual growth expressed in the lyrics.

"I read a quote from Charles Mingus," Bramhall stated upon the completion of ***Rich Man***. "He felt like he was not playing his music as much as creating the sound of his life and experiences through the medium of his music. I looked at his life and related to that, and tried to capture the same thing on the album."

In 2018, Doyle is already hard at work on the next chapter of his musical journey. For his next project, Doyle is calling on his friends and past collaborators including Derek Trucks, Susan Tedeschi, Eric Clapton, and more. Bramhall will be highlighting his melodic sensibilities, while still portraying the guitar playing his fans know and love. Be on the lookout for new music coming from Doyle in the fall of 2018!