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Mike Gunther: 'I was born in St. Vincent's hospital Billings Montana, to the daughter of a meat packer from Austin Minnesota and the son of a milkman from Chicago.

I grew up listening to radio and a sparse collection of records my folks had. The only instrument my mother had was a pitch pipe from teachers college, so I pretended I was an orchestra conductor with a section of broken fishing pole, played vacuum cleaner attachments, and sang songs.

I heard the music of Robert Johnson on the radio when I was 14, bought a Harmony guitar with a warped neck at a garage sale for ten dollars and started to teach myself to play. My lack of understanding and left handed instinct lead me to play it up side down without restringing. I would skip class and learn song lyrics from John and Alan Lomax ballad books, Carl Sandburg's American song bag and naively read poetry in the school library. I played at talent shows and open stages hopped freights, got scared of hitch hiking, became a diesel mechanic, cab driver, truck driver, carpenter. So here is where the heart lies kissed off, vagabond and all the time writing songs for myself.'



Discography

- 2003 recorded and released "Every Dream that's Dropped and Died" (heart of a champion)
- 2004 A Split single with Eleni Mandell "Los Fishies/ Water into Wine" (heart of a champion)
- 2006 Burn It Down For The Nails (Rosa Records)

Quotes

"Dime store revivalist Mike Gunther juggles salvation ad sin like a whiskey warped southern soul, tugging the guilt and faith strings of even the most jaded - all this with the down home harmonics and clunk and shatter traditional instrumentation of the restless souls" – Michael Metzger, City Pages

"Spooky Stuff indeed." – Goldmine magazine

"Gunther won't actually save anyone, but lines like 'just because I have no faith/don't mean no promised land' have sinner and saint singing along" – Mark Baumgarten, Willamette Week

"Brilliant vaudevillian/medicine show/Baptist revival-esque show of Mike Gunther and His Restless Souls... he and his band really are in a class of their own. Using his versatile voice - at times gravelly, at times smooth and longingly plaintive, at times the voice of a medicine show barker... many were converted that night, one saying, "That's how I expect a show to be, but never see!" – Cyn Collins, Howwastheshow.com

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