

## Artist Biography

Planetary Nights' singer-songwriter R.J. McSweeney brings decades of musical influences and life experiences to his brand of Americana rock 'n' roll. Home is New York City where he has soaked up the live music coursing through Manhattan from hanging at the Fillmore East as a teenager to the arena rock of the Garden and all the transient clubs and blues bars in between.

Through diverse career paths and life travels, music has always been a constant companion. R.J.'s songwriting style has been influenced by the song craft of Willie Dixon, John Lennon, Tom Petty, Bruce Springsteen and Jackson Browne, as well as newer talent like Lucinda Williams, Clarence Greenwood (a/k/a Citizen Cope) and Jim Ward.

With the encouragement of friends and family in the middle of 2008, R.J. partnered with veteran producer and engineer Mark Hermann and together with a broad group of musicians including Rob Clores on keyboards, between his tour dates with the Black Crows, and drummer Graham Hawthorne, between his tour dates with David Byrne, Dan Cipriano from the Uptown Horns on tenor sax, and Dave "Snakeman" Runyan on harp, recorded *Elliptical Motion* in Mark's Harlem recording studio. Released in June 2009, *Elliptical Motion* was selected by Radio Indy as one of the best rock album of 2009.

The leadoff song "Road Trip" has been described as "capturing the roll-down-the-windows and crank-up-the-music spirit of adventure and freedom" and as "a jaw-dropping adrenaline-charged rocker". It was licensed by ESPN in August 2009 and used as the theme song for a 21-segment series on Sports Center in which football analyst Chris



Mortensen traveled by tour bus to interview players and coaches at NFL training camps. ESPN renewed the license for use during Southeastern Conference and Big East college football broadcasts. Since then, all of Elliptical Motion's songs have been accepted by and added to several prominent music catalogs used by Music Supervisors in the film and television industries.

Billboard Discoveries gave this review to Elliptical Motion: "Road Trip," the rip-roaring first single from Planetary Nights' 14-track "Elliptical Motion," is an ideal showcase for the musical vision of singer/songwriter R.J. McSweeney, the namesake behind the band. Licensed by ESPN for its "Sports Center," the song beckons, "We're taking a trip, we're going together/To the hills or the shore, it don't matter/Your love and your laughter, are all I'm after." Good times, huh? Equally robust "N.Y.C." offers a shout-out to McSweeney's home base, displaying his obvious penchant for classic rock, blues and soul. The more restrained "Starting Over," "If Ever," "Ebony Eyes" and "Hide Away" reveal the musician's more soulful side with equal skill—but it's truly the get-down jams—like "Luck Runnin' Out" and "Countin' On You"—that define the free spirit of Planetary Nights. With its live, garage-band template, all that's missing here is a bottle of Jack and two tickets for the band's next live outing.

Planetary Nights has performed as a four-piece band at numerous rock venues across New York City and from those gigs a live album was released in March 2010 titled Live 'n' Untethered, featuring R.J. on vocals and rhythm guitar and delivering a gritty, stripped-down garage band energy.

Through airplay on FM and Internet radio stations as well as the Jango music social network platform ([www.jango.com/music/planetarynights](http://www.jango.com/music/planetarynights)), Planetary Nights has built a



large email-linked fan base over 10,000 strong that spans over 100 countries as well as all of the United States.

R.J. will be back in the studio in 2010 with more dynamic and original Planetary Nights rock 'n' roll. Thank you for spending time on the Planetary Nights website!

