### **Tiger King: Inside Joe Exotic's Wild Homemade Music Videos**

VF vanityfair.com/hollywood/2020/03/netflix-tiger-king-joe-exotic

Julie Miller

March 23, 2020



Netflix's *Tiger King* is full of baffling story lines, looney large-cat lovers, and Coen brothers– esque criminal acts that landed **Joe Exotic**, the character at the show's center, a 22-year prison sentence for a harebrained murder-for-hire plot and several wildlife violations. But beneath the unhinged egos and sincerely disturbing treatment of cats is a minor mystery that nagged at us: Who actually recorded the country songs "performed" by Joe throughout the docuseries? And what kind of work went into Exotic's absurd, homemade, obviously lipsynced music videos—further evidence of Joe's blissful detachment from planet Earth?

After some light internet research, *Vanity Fair* concluded that the mystery musicians responsible for Joe's tracks are **Vince Johnson** and vocalist **Danny Clinton**, both of whom are listed in *Tiger King*'s credits. But Joe guarded this "secret" fiercely.

### **Hollywood Daily**

Film, TV, and entertainment industry news. Plus, every Friday, a special Awards Insider edition.

By signing up you agree to our User Agreement and Privacy Policy & Cookie Statement. This site is protected by reCAPTCHA and the Google Privacy Policy and Terms of Service apply.

"It was absolutely ridiculous," producer **Rick Kirkham** told *Vanity Fair* of Joe's music ruse. Kirkham spent years living on Joe's now-shuttered zoo, filming footage for a prospective reality show. "One time," he said, "Joe got a little bit drunk and high, and we actually coaxed him into singing part of one of the songs. He couldn't even hold a tune. It was just so ludicrous. It was a big joke within the crew and staff that it wasn't him [singing in the videos] —but he was damned insistent to anyone and everyone, including us and my studio crew, that that was him."

Unbeknownst to Kirkham and the staff, Joe had tracked down Johnson and Clinton and convinced them to produce customized cat songs for free. The musicians had a proven record personalizing lyrics to clients' needs—Johnson said that a song they wrote about Meineke's poor service, commissioned by an unhappy customer, was what won over Joe— but had not yet broken through any major market as recording artists. Joe contacted Johnson, explained that he was a large-cat owner operating a private zoo in Oklahoma, and said he needed music for a reality show that was the subject of a bidding war between Animal Planet, Discovery, and National Geographic. Johnson agreed to work pro bono in exchange for the potential exposure his music could get on cable TV.

The first song Johnson and Clinton recorded was "I Saw a Tiger"—an ode to Joe's life passion. The creative process for that song, and the tunes that followed, was simple: Joe would give Johnson a subject (Joe's late brother, or "the nut in Ohio who was a friend of Joe's who let his big cats loose," or a bikers club), and the duo would turn around a track within two weeks.

"I had no idea he was going to Milli Vanilli the songs," Johnson wrote *Vanity Fair* in an email. "It was a couple of months and two or three songs [into the collaboration] when I was on YouTube one night and just happened to look up Joe Exotic. And there he was, lip-syncing and acting like the ghost of Elvis [in these music videos]. I called him up, I was hot...And he bamboozled me about his reality show—that it was coming soon and he would make everything right as rain. I just wanted the proper credit." WATCH

Johnson and Clinton went along with the ruse for awhile—thinking their music might finally make it to air—until it was clear that there would never be a real Joe Exotic reality show, beyond the low-fi content Joe was producing for his YouTube channel.

"When it finally ended, I told him they could have filmed *Gone With the Wind* for all I cared let alone a crummy reality show starring a jerk-off con man kook," Johnson said. **Mateusz Gugałka**, who produced some of Joe's music videos, told *Vanity Fair* that Joe went to extraordinary lengths to insist that he was writing and recording his own country music. One tactic involved telling staffers on a Monday that he spent the weekend in Dallas recording a new song—a brazen lie, considering Joe had interacted with said staffers the whole weekend in Oklahoma.

"We knew he didn't go record a song, but you didn't question Joe. You just roll with it." said Gugałka, who began working for Joe at age 22 after moving to the U.S. from Poland. "He would not give us any notice about shooting music videos. He would just wake up one morning sometimes...and say, 'We're going to shoot a music video today, because I had a dream, pretty much, of how I want it to look.' Then he would show up dressed like a priest."

There actually was a glint of logic—Joe Exotic logic—to the priest getup.

"I think he was trying to start his own church at the zoo," claimed Gugałka, who now produces commercials for NBC's Oklahoma City affiliate. "I don't know if he was doing this for tax reasons, or he just wanted to get people married. There were times where he wanted to start his own church."

The filming process for the videos was pretty bare-bones—though Joe managed to rustle up occasional shimmers of production value. (A pretty spot-on **Carole Baskin** look-alike features in "Here Kitty Kitty.") The music video for "Guardians of Children"—about the "bikers who protect abused children in our country"—features a group of children clapping, "Kumbaya"-like, between a shot of Joe lip-syncing on a highway overpass, his bare tattooed torso visible under a leather jacket, and Joe in a priest uniform, handlebar mustache, and baseball hat, serenading a newborn at night. The video for the piano-heavy "My First Love" features Joe in the dark, sitting at what could be a piano or table saw—everything from Joe's forearm down is out of frame—staring into a glowing candle and what look to be pink roses added in post.

"Sometimes I had two cameras pointed at him—we'd just record two different angles maybe 50 different times, then pick the take where his mouth lined up with the music actually," said Gugałka.

"I'm a musician myself, and I was just flabbergasted by the sheer fakeness of his presentation," said **Romeo Dupuy**, a producer who impulsively moved to Oklahoma to work with Joe after he saw a Craigslist posting following a breakup with his girlfriend. "He couldn't even play the guitar. So we would pose him. When we shot him playing these songs, he would be behind grass to cover up his hands. Then he'd lip-sync."

But there's something about Joe that is strangely magnetic. Even if he is a con man, those he conned can't argue that Joe's got a kind of gonzo charisma.

Writing to *Vanity Fair* years after their ill-fated collaboration, Johnson reflected on it: "We all get what's coming to us in the end, be it good or bad. Joe, all in all, was likable. Most people just bore the hell out of me. They have the personality of a lobster. He's a seedy shyster, but he's got personality."

### Behind the Music of the Tiger King

S slate.com/culture/2020/03/netflixs-tiger-king-joe-exotics-music-isnt-even-by-joe-exotic.html

Sam Adams

March 27, 2020

Television

### The story of Joe Exotic's songs is so strange that even Netflix's fivehour documentary doesn't have room for it.

By Sam Adams March 27, 20205:42 PM



Screengrab from "I Saw a Tiger"

### **Popular in Culture**

There's so much off-the-wall material in Netflix's *Tiger King* that it's hard to imagine it left anything out. But as sprawling and digressive as the seven-part series may be, there are areas where it only scratches the surface. The music videos made by the man who calls

himself Joe Exotic largely function as comic relief, evidence of his charmingly inept but unflaggingly confident attempts at fame. But Joe's music, and the story behind it, is far stranger than even *Tiger King*'s five hours can encompass.

To begin with, the songs that are presented as Joe Exotic's ... aren't. They were written and performed by Washington state musicians Vince Johnson and Danny Clinton, whom the Clark County Columbian flagged in 2010 as local artists to watch because several of their songs were due to be featured in a movie called *Nude Nuns With Big Guns*. According to Johnson, who answered questions via email, they connected with Exotic via an ad looking for someone to write a theme song for his private zoo as well as the in-the-works reality TV show about it. (If you've seen *Tiger King*, you know how that turned out.) "He seemed like a dandy," Johnson wrote. It wasn't until months later, watching Joe's videos on YouTube, that Johnson realized Joe was going to "Milli Vanilli" the songs and take full credit for them.

#### To begin with, the songs that are presented as Joe Exotic's ... aren't.

While *Tiger King* offers tantalizing glimpses of the music videos Joe made to accompany "his" songs, you can (and I did) easily lose a good chunk of the day watching the mesmerizing full versions on YouTube. There are straightforward, if unlikely, bids for country radio airplay like "Pretty Woman Lover," which features Joe being pawed by scantily clad models over slap bass, and "How Was I to Know," a soft-rock ditty about misdirected love, although the latter drops the pretense of heterosexuality by showing him staring mournfully at his soon-to-be ex-husband, John. From happier times, there's "My First Love," which features soft-focus shots of Joe and John smiling at each other in the snow, and "This Is My Life," a goodbye-to-all-that ballad, released while Joe was purportedly dealing with cancer, that proclaims, "My true loves were men, but I'm just like you."

And then there are the doozies. *Tiger King* dwells for a while on "Here Kitty Kitty," which fires back at Joe's nemesis, animal welfare crusader Carole Baskin, by playing up rumors that she murdered her husband and fed him to her tigers. It isn't subtle, either: Joe hired a Carole Baskin look-alike and had her gleefully feed his own big cats with strips of raw meat served from a platter topped with a mannequin head. But while the docuseries tells us the story of Zanesville, Ohio's Terry Thompson, who turned loose his sizable collection of exotic animals, including nearly three dozen lions and tigers, before killing himself, it doesn't get around to "You Can't Believe," a musical "tribute" that alleges Thompson was actually murdered by the deep state in an attempt to discredit private zoo ownership. The video positions Joe as a dogged investigator, slapping a folder down on an interrogation table and lighting up a cigarette, and shows uniformed men in masks leading a blindfolded Thompson look-alike into a clearing and sticking a gun in his mouth.

Joe Exotic didn't write any of the songs, and he didn't even sing on most of them, although a few seem to feature his vocals mixed low over Collins' and Johnson's recordings. But it's hard to imagine them being sung—or being pretended to be sung—by anyone else. They're as specific to his life as Taylor Swift's musical diary entries are to hers, full of references and name-drops that are inexplicable unless you know the stories behind them. Johnson says Joe would set the subjects for the songs and then leave Johnson to "do my research," although that doesn't necessarily mean he agrees with their conclusions. For "You Can't Believe," Johnson says, "he told me about his friend Thompson and how he was being railroaded and he wanted a sympathetic song, so I gave him one." But as for the idea that the government had him killed, "Hell no. I think he was a creep/nut. Those cats he let out could have killed anyone."

Though it doesn't exactly stand on its own, there is one of Joe Exotic's songs that's strong enough to survive outside the hothouse environment of his overstuffed life. "I Saw a Tiger" couldn't be more closely tied to Joe, with its lyrics about being awed by the majesty of big cats, and the video is full of the same goofy first-day-in-iMovie effects. (Joe seems particularly fond of a stormy sky dropped into the background, in this case while he's standing on the hood of a pickup truck and playing his guitar.) But it's also a straight-up anthem, and the cornball reversal that closes the chorus—"and the tiger saw a man"—is the stuff of legitimate pop hits, albeit the kind you feel a little embarrassed getting caught singing along to.

B.J. Barham, the singer for alt-country band American Aquarium, posted a cover of "I Saw a Tiger" to social media earlier this week, after bingeing the first few episodes of *Tiger King* with his wife. "It's so beautiful, man," he said of the series. "It's like a train wreck you can't look away from. You know you shouldn't like it or approve of it or even want to see it, but you can't stop watching it."

Barham, who hails from rural North Carolina, says he's in awe of the show's "redneckery," and while some may see Joe as an alien specimen, he's a familiar figure to people raised working-class. "We all know that guy," Barham says. "Everybody has one of those guys in their town, the super eccentric guy who will do anything to keep his name in the headlines. Most of them are the mayor. I don't think every town has a true gem like Joe Exotic, though. A lot of them pale in comparison."

Barham admits he had to do 15 or 20 takes of "I Saw a Tiger" to get one where he made it through the entire song without laughing. But he's also genuinely admiring of its power. "It's so big and bombastic. It's everything I love about cheesy anthem rock," he says. "It could be an a '80s Springsteen song if it wasn't about the tiger holocaust." Recording the cover was a product of coronavirus stir-craziness, but Barham says he expects to be playing it onstage long after the quarantine has lifted. "It's gonna be my walkout song for at least a year," he says. "Lighters up before you even play the first note."

# Band Behind Joe Exotic's Songs in 'Tiger King' Hoping for Record Deal

tmz.com/2020/03/29/joe-exotic-band-tiger-king-song-clinton-johnson-record-deal

TMZ Staff

## 'TIGER KING' BAND BEHIND JOE EXOTIC'S SONGS ... Hopes to Strike Gold

- Exclusive
- 20.7K

3/29/2020 1:00 AM PT



#### JoeExoticTV

Many 'Tiger King' fans were stunned to find out **Joe Exotic** doesn't sing his own songs, but there's a real band behind those cat-themed country tunes ... and it hopes the hit Netflix docuseries leads to a record deal.

For those who haven't watched yet ... zoo owner/big cat breeder Joe Exotic flaunts his country music songs and videos on 'Tiger King,' but it turns out he's just lip-syncing and pretending to play the guitar. The real performers are **The Clinton Johnson Band**.



One-half of the country group, **Vince Johnson**, tells TMZ ... since the documentary premiered and became a smashing success, lots of journalists and media outlets have reached out to him ... but he'd prefer to get some calls from music labels. So far, no luck.

Vince says that's a shame, because he and the other half of the band, **Danny Clinton**, recorded 3 albums worth of songs before Danny passed away in October from a heart-related issue.

We're told their tracks are a lot like the ones they did for Joe in 'Tiger King' ... except they're not cat-related.

Vince tells us the band's had some prior success getting their work featured in some small films and TV shows like "Justified," but he believes 'Tiger King' could really be a big break ... and help him become a big cat in the music biz.

As for how The CB Band -- from Vancouver, Washington -- got linked up with the Oklahoma zoo extraordinaire ... Vince tells us they simply responded to one of Joe's ads to make a theme song for Joe's TV show and park, and it evolved from there.

He says how it worked was Exotic would give Vince a theme and some details, he'd write a tune and Danny would sing it. Then they'd email it to Joe.

The band did about 20 songs for Joe, Vince says, and as far as he knows ... Joe has never professionally sung or played an instrument in his life.



BTW -- Vince hasn't watched 'Tiger King' yet, but plans on it soon.

Joe Exotic Netflix Reality TV Exclusive Music

## Band behind 'Tiger King' music lands publishing deal, releases new Carole Baskin song

Chicagotribune.com/entertainment/tv/ct-ent-tiger-king-clinton-johnson-band-carole-baskin-song-20200605-4xye32xewvbdnpa3ia7qjkizby-story.html

Ellise Shafer, Variety



Looks like the band behind the songs featured in Netflix's wildly popular "Tiger King" are finally getting their share of the spotlight.

Vince Johnson, one half of The Clinton-Johnson Band who wrote and performed the songs Joe Exotic tried to pass of as his own, has officially signed an exclusive worldwide licensing and distribution deal with BMG Rights Management and Create Music Group. The agreement covers such classics as "I Saw a Tiger" and "My First Love."

The deal was signed with entity the Vince Johnson Band, not the Clinton-Johnson Band, as Daniel Clinton, Johnson's musical partner, died last year of a heart attack. Under that name, Johnson is set to release a compilation album containing all of the songs he and Clinton wrote that were featured in "Tiger King."

Johnson will release a few new tunes as well, including "Killer Carole," which was uploaded to YouTube on May 23 and became available on streaming services today. The song stays within the style and theme of those featured in the documentary, bolstering the conspiracy that Exotic's enemy Carole Baskin fed her husband to tigers over outlaw country instrumentals. In addition to the song, the YouTube video is also a music video of sorts, with stock images reflecting its lyrical content.

#### TOP ENTERTAINMENT VIDEOS



Watch Video At: https://youtu.be/Zx6Uh\_z91JU

Johnson first made headlines soon after the release of "Tiger King," when he told TMZ that he and Clinton were the voices behind the songs that the documentary passed off as Exotic's. In the article, Johnson mentioned hoping to get a record deal out of the fame of his tiger-themed songs - and though a licensing deal isn't quite that, it is certainly a step in the right direction.

"No prior recordings of Johnson's music were authorized, but once these recordings are released, cover versions will be lawful," reads a statement announcing the deal. "This is Johnson's first publishing agreement for these songs and others he's written and is also the band's first recording agreement."

Said Mary Plotas, A&R at Create Music Group: "Vince's music has been a part of one of the biggest television events of the year. We are thrilled to be working with an artist who creates such powerful viral moments through his music."

Johnson is represented by business manager Steve Tramposch of Launchpad Media / Artist Alliance. Marc Jacobson acted as attorney for Johnson, who said, "The team at BMG impressed me with their faith in my songwriting. We look forward to a long relationship with them. The people at Create were enthusiastic about this music as soon as it was released, and I am glad to be in business with them."

## 'Tiger King' Songwriter Scores Publishing Deal, Shares New Song 'Killer Carole'

R rollingstone.com/music/music-country/tiger-king-killer-carole-vince-johnson-1010387

June 5, 2020



Vince Johnson, one of the writers behind the viral hit "I Saw a Tiger," signed with BMG





Vince Johnson, whose music first reached millions of households through the Netflix documentary Tiger King, put out a new ramshackle country-rock song on Friday. Johnson was mostly unknown before the show, but that has changed: The release of "Killer Carole" was accompanied by the announcement of his new publishing deal with BMG (which also handles songwriting for the likes of DJ Khaled and Juice WRLD) and his new distribution deal with Create Music Group (Tekashi 6ix9ine, Marshmello).

Back at the beginning of quarantine, which now seems like a decade ago, Tiger King — a multi-part true-crime documentary about a potentially murderous group of big-cat obsessives — captivated a sizable chunk of the population. The show racked up more than 34 million views in the first 10 days it was available for streaming, according to Bloomberg, putting it in

the same sphere of popularity as the third season of the universally beloved Stranger Things. And Tiger King also included original songs, solemnly sung Americana-ish tunes with goofy lyrics like "I Saw a Tiger," which has accumulated more than three million views on YouTube.

"Killer Carole" is more uptempo, full of meaty guitar, flitting banjo, and an arrangement that distantly echoes "Summertime Blues." But it dwells on the unsolved disappearance of Don Lewis, husband of Carole Baskin, an animal-rights activist who was one of former zoo-owner Joe Exotic's nemeses.

Baskin has denied any involvement with Lewis' vanishing, but the new song is unafraid to float gruesome theories. "Was he chewed in little pieces in the belly of the beast?" Johnson asks. "...Was the weapon a meat-grinder, a bullet, or a bat/Would a woman kill a man and feed him to her cat?"

Johnson originally wrote the music for Tiger King along with Daniel Clinton after Joe Exotic put out an ad to find a theme song for his zoo. Clinton died last year, but when the show became a sensation, interest in the music skyrocketed. The country trio Midland covered "I Saw a Tiger;" the rock group the Offspring re-did "Here Kitty Kitty."

The modern music industry moves quickly to capitalize on any sort of musical phenomenon — whether it's tunes from Tiger King or from the royal wedding, it can be uploaded to the streaming services and beamed around the globe for a relatively low cost. It took longer than originally planned to find a release partner for Johnson, due to complications around Clinton's estate. But the release of "Killer Carole" this week turned out to be timely, as two experts just claimed that Lewis' will was a forgery, putting Baskin and Tiger King back in the news.

"Killer Carole" was not featured in Tiger King, but the music from the show will be officially released soon. "Vince's music has been a part of one of the biggest television events of the year," says Mary Plotas, an A&R for Create Music Group. "We are thrilled to be working with an artist who creates such powerful viral moments."

Page 16 https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-country/tiger-king-killer-carole-vince-johnson-1010387/

# Is Netflix 'Tiger King' star Joe Exotic really a country singer?

Iatimes.com/entertainment-arts/music/story/2020-03-24/tiger-king-joe-exotic-netflix-country-songs-here-kitty-kitty
August Brown
March 24, 2020 6:50 PM PT

#### By August BrownStaff Writer

If you're using the coronavirus stay-at-home order to get in some deep listening with monumental works of art, congratulations and we hope you're truly moved.

But if you're instead staving off existential terror with Netflix's gobsmacking true-crime documentary "Tiger King" (which we can't recommend enough) you're probably doing some deep listening of your own. Namely, to the suspiciously mellifluous music of its star Joe Exotic, the big-cat-breeding, gay-throuple-enmeshed, hit-man-hiring and currently imprisoned star of the series.



It's no spoiler to say that Joe Exotic's amateur country music career is the least shocking angle in his extremely American life of breeding tigers on a private ranch and hiring a bumbling assassin to kill his activist nemesis. But of all the reasons his misadventures (and very serious crimes) are so riveting, his improbably heartrending voice and uncannily earnest songs including "I Saw a Tiger" and "Here Kitty Kitty" are among them.

The soft-focus lip-sync videos are masterpieces of Tim & Eric cringe comedy, escalated by the fact that the music is actually kind of moving, or at least surreally convincing country-rock. What's the deal with his genuinely beautiful voice?

The short answer: It's not him singing, but he won't admit it.

While we'd all rather live in a world where Joe Exotic, instead of resorting to the attempted murder of humans and serial abuse of tigers, landed a side-tent gig at a rescheduled Stagecoach 2021, the actual recordings of his albums were farmed out to songwriter Vince Johnson and singer Danny Clinton, each of whom are credited for "Archival Footage" in the docuseries.



Joe Exotic discovered their work writing novelty tunes on commission, including one customer angry at the car-repair shop Meineke. The two worked with Exotic on the promise of exposure from a planned reality TV show that never materialized outside of Exotic's mind-

frying YouTube channel and a pair of albums for sale at his cat ranch (well, until "Tiger King" came out).

While their musical relationship, like so many in Exotic's life, soon soured, the work holds up as one of the weirdest yet fully realized hired-gun music projects in pop history. The two apparently had no idea Exotic was going to straight-up pretend he sang them on record, and Exotic's inability to perform them in person was something of a running joke during the filming of "Tiger King." He lasted the whole series straight-faced swearing that it's him singing on record.

"We all get what's coming to us in the end, be it good or bad. Joe, all in all, was likable," Johnson told Vanity Fair in an email. "Most people just bore the hell out of me. They have the personality of a lobster. He's a seedy shyster, but he's got personality."

Some of the songs are more-or-less normal: "My First Love" is a tear-jerking piano ballad that, outside this insane context, holds up as competent top-40 country-pop, albeit with a bizarrely smoldering video to go with it. But their work on "Here Kitty Kitty" must have come from an extremely uncomfortably specific set of lyrical notes: namely that Exotic's foe and big-cat activist Carole Baskin murdered her husband and fed him to tigers on her own property. The video, where a Baskin lookalike feeds meat made to look like human brains to a caged tiger, is without peer in the dark crevasses of YouTube (and, to be fair, she has her own issues with the documentary).

But Johnson and Clinton wrote, performed and shipped the song off with complete conviction, and while it's not quite up there with "Two Sisters" or "Cocaine Blues" in the annals of great murder ballads, it will live on a testament to the absolute unhinged vision of Joe Exotic.

Maybe Johnson and Clinton will get some Nashville work out of this in the end after all, or some wiseacre will eventually cover "I Saw a Tiger" at Stagecoach. In this time of madness and quarantine and total failure of leadership, Joe Exotic is the country star America deserves.



### Band Behind Joe Exotic's Music Set to Release New 'Killer Carole' Song

tmz.com/2020/06/04/vince-johnson-band-joe-exotic-music-tiger-king-killer-carole-song

TMZ Staff



## 'TIGER KING' STAR JOE EXOTIC Band Behind the Tunes NEW DEAL & SONG, 'KILLER CAROLE'

6/4/2020 12:40 AM PT

Ð

The band that provided the magic for **Joe Exotic**'s unique set of songs on 'Tiger King' has good news for everyone itching for more of their good musical vibes.

**Vince Johnson** of The Vince Johnson Band -- who made up one half of the music duo who wrote and performed Joe's tracks featured on the Netflix series -- just inked an exclusive licensing and distribution deal with BMG Rights Management and Create Music Group.

As part of the agreement, all those Joe tunes (which are actually Vince's) will be compiled onto an album for the first time and be released on streaming services everywhere in the coming months. There'll also be some new tunes, including a cut called 'Killer Carole.' Probably won't be a big hit in **Carole Baskin**'s crib.

We got a little taste of this gem before it officially drops Friday -- we're thinking you can add this one to your back road country playlist. No sign of Joe, though, in the pseudo-music video -- he's a little **tied up right now**, unfortunately.

In any case, it's great news for Vince and co. ... whom, as we previously told you, were gunning for a record deal of some sort in the wake of the show's massive popularity. Unclear if they've gotten signed to a label yet, but a licensing deal is kinda like getting halfway there.

Of course, Vince lost his longtime music collaborator -- **Daniel Clinton** -- who helped him pen a lot of the songs on 'Tiger King,' after **he passed away** from a heart attack late last year. Here's hoping Vince does him proud with this streak of good luck going forward.

As for their latest earworm ... play it again, boys!!! Earmuffs, Carole. Joe Exotic Netflix Reality TV Viral Exclusive Music

## **'Tiger King' Band Inks Licensing Deal, Releases New Carole Baskin Song**

V variety.com/2020/music/news/tiger-king-music-band-publishing-carole-baskin-song-1234626348

June 5, 2020



Netflix

Looks like the band behind the songs featured in Netflix's wildly popular "Tiger King" is finally getting its share of the spotlight.

Vince Johnson, one half of the Clinton-Johnson Band, who wrote and performed the songs Joe Exotic tried to pass of as his own, has officially signed an exclusive worldwide licensing and distribution deal with BMG Rights Management and Create Music Group. The agreement covers such classics as "I Saw a Tiger" and "My First Love."

The deal was signed with entity the Vince Johnson Band, not the Clinton-Johnson Band, as Daniel Clinton, Johnson's musical partner, died last year of a heart attack. Under that name, Johnson is set to release a compilation album containing all of the songs he and Clinton wrote that were featured in "Tiger King."

Johnson will release a few new tunes as well, including "Killer Carole," which was uploaded to YouTube on May 23 and became available on streaming services today. The song stays within the style and theme of those featured in the documentary, bolstering the conspiracy that Exotic's enemy Carole Baskin fed her husband to tigers over outlaw country instrumentals. In addition to the song, the YouTube video is also a music video of sorts, with stock images reflecting its lyrical content.

Johnson first made headlines soon after the release of "Tiger King," when he told TMZ that he and Clinton were the voices behind the songs that the documentary passed off as Exotic's. In the article, Johnson mentioned hoping to get a record deal out of the fame of his tiger-themed songs – and though a licensing deal isn't quite that, it is certainly a step in the right direction.

"No prior recordings of Johnson's music were authorized, but once these recordings are released, cover versions will be lawful," reads a statement announcing the deal. "This is Johnson's first publishing agreement for these songs and others he's written and is also the band's first recording agreement."

Said Mary Plotas, A&R at Create Music Group: "Vince's music has been a part of one of the biggest television events of the year. We are thrilled to be working with an artist who creates such powerful viral moments through his music."

Johnson is represented by business manager Steve Tramposch of Launchpad Media/Artist Alliance. Marc Jacobson acted as attorney for Johnson, who said, "The team at BMG impressed me with their faith in my songwriting. We look forward to a long relationship with them. The people at Create were enthusiastic about this music as soon as it was released, and I am glad to be in business with them."

Listen to "Killer Carole" by the Vince Johnson Band below.



Watch Video At: https://youtu.be/Zx6Uh\_z91JU