

## ODISS KOHN Biography

“I’m country through and through,” says 23-year-old Greenwood, Mississippi native Odiss Kohn. “There’s no city in me.”

Truer words have never been spoken. Kohn has a passion and reverence for the genre that runs to the very core of his being. “My love for country music began with my dad, who grew up listening to it as a boy,” he explains. “It’s music that has a story behind every song for everybody. It’s music that speaks of times past, present times, and even future times if you look into it like that.”

Located in the northern portion of the state, Greenwood is two hours from Memphis and as close to Nashville as it is to the Gulf of Mexico. Kohn’s reference points are all musical. “It’s about an hour-and-a-half from where Charlie Pride is from, 45 minutes from Tupelo – where Elvis is from. It’s 30 minutes west of B.B. King’s hometown of Indianola.”

In his relaxed, country manner of speaking, Odiss is explaining that he hails from the Delta. The broad, flat expanse where fertile soil and the pain-soaked seeds of cruelty yielded cross pollinations of European folk songs, African melodies and the indomitable human spirit. The results, jazz, blues, gospel, country and eventually rock – are arguably this nation’s greatest contribution to world culture. Music.

“If I could remember the crib I could talk about it, but I know since before I could walk music was always a big part of my family,” Odiss says. “My grandmother loved the blues and grew up listening to it until the day she passed. So my mom was really into blues, R&B, old school Motown. And I got the country influence from my dad. Randy Travis was my biggest influence.”

“As soon as I was old enough to walk, my dad snatched me up and told my mom it’s time for the boy to become a man. I have a lot of fond memories of being with my dad on road trips – fishing and hunting. And all the time the radio was blasting Jack Greene or George Jones tapes, or we had on a country station.”

Teenaged Odiss watched Country Music Television, stayed up on all the new music and bought back catalog on his favorite artists. “When I finally got old enough to drive, the only thing you would here in my truck was 95.9 The hog out of Wynonna. If you didn’t like country music, out of respect I would cut the radio off. But I wouldn’t tune in to any other station.”

Odiss has served in the Army, earned his keep as a professional bull rider and worked as a diesel mechanic. “I grew up around the automotive industry,” he says. “My dad has been a transmission tech or mechanic for 34 years. My mom has been working as a hairstylist for 23 years. They were a self-employed family so they had a lot of time to devote to their only son.”