

Caliente –*Arizona Daily Star*

Larry Armstrong

Guitarist for CopperMoon

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Age: 63

For the record: Larry Armstrong's exposure to music-making happened long before he learned how to walk.

"My dad has played around Tucson since 1948," Armstrong said about his father, Dean Armstrong, longtime leader of the Li'l Abner's country and Western house band, Dean Armstrong and the Arizona Dance Hands. "It's like I didn't have a choice. I've been around music since the time I was old enough to breath. "It is kind of an osmosis thing when you are around it from Day One, sitting in on band rehearsals at the house and stuff like that. You can't escape it really."

If you're lucky, you might catch both father and son performing together as Larry's band, CopperMoon, takes the Nimbus Brewing Company stage on Sunday night. Armstrong said his dad comes and plays with him "as often as he can."

Then again, witnessing the mix of country, folk and Americana music that CopperMoon puts out by itself can be just as satisfying.

You have decades of musical experience under your belt both as a solo artist and a band member. Which do you prefer? "I do not like playing solo. It is frightening and it's boring in a way. There is all this other stuff you'd like to hear and it's just not there. You get to listen to yourself all the time. To me, it doesn't do the music justice."

Your wife, Kathy Armstrong, is also in CopperMoon. Do you enjoy performing with her?

"Yeah, I do actually. It took some getting used to, but it is quite nice because we collaborate well. She is an artist. I help her get her art stuff together and she helps me get my music stuff together. Her harmonies are probably one of the more defining aspects of the sound we've got. She's got a unique approach to two-part harmony that is pretty important to what we are doing."

You just released your latest full-length album, "Songs." Was there a direction you wanted to take this release? "I don't actually consider it full-length. It was supposed to be a

larger project. Our bass player says it takes time and money to make a record, but they didn't say you had to have both at the same time. We finally decided it was done enough and took it out of the oven.

"It was supposed to be all covers of songs from a particular era. Those great country writers — Harlan Howard, Willie Nelson, those guys. The idea was to take those songs and give them a little twist. Then (longtime Armstrong associate) Andrew Hardin called and said he would be in town, so we got some studio time and picked the ones we thought best to have him on.

"There were about 20 more songs on the list, but those chosen songs sort of floated to the top at that point."

You mentioned your father often plays with CopperMoon. How old is he, and what is it like playing with Dad? He is 83 and we almost never actually play together. When he comes and sits in with us, I hand him the guitar and I go goof off while he plays. When I sit in with him, it is the same sort of thing. I played bass with him for a while in the early '60s. Other than that we don't play at the same time.

SOUNDZ

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