

J. R. Casterfish began late in 2013 as Joe Boettger (J. R.) on keyboards and vocals, Karl Caster (Caster) on guitar and vocals, Mike Fisher on bass and vocals and his son Scott on drums (fish) came together from the remnants of various groups in the Flint area. This particular group of musicians had worked together in different pairings and pieces but never previously all together at once. Joe had done extensive session work and roadwork as a Nashville pickup band sideman, most notably for Pam Tillis, Dave Slater and Hank Thompson (The King of Western Swing) while Karl worked as the main sound/monitor mixer on tours with people like B.B. King and 38 Special. The goal of the group was to chronicle all of the songs these two individually had written over their 30 plus years supporting other artists in the industry. Mike's dad arranged for him to leave high school as a sort of "work study" to go on the road with Gino Washington at age 14, and he worked in bands with various musicians who ended up in world renowned groups like Ted Nugent, Grand Funk Railroad and the Silver Bullet Band.