



Jesse Winchester's Studio

 Occasionally someone says he envies me the songwriting life - the elastic hours, the casual costume, the low standards of personal behavior - the attractions are pretty obvious, I guess. But there are days when even the carefree tunesmith finds sand in his oysters. Like recently, when I came home from a trip and realized I now hated a song I had been working on devotedly when I left. This is actually a pretty common occurrence around the studio - common enough that I've given it a name: the Cheeseburger Effect. This refers to the fact that your enthusiasm for a given ditty can vanish completely in the time it takes to eat lunch.

 The reverse - coming to love a song you once hated - also has a name: elvising, as in "I was up till three in the morning elvising a new tune." This term comes from Elvis' method of learning to tolerate one of the awful movie songs he had to record. He would sit and listen to it over and over and over again, until, finally, he liked it. Elvising doesn't work well for me - it can change quickly (and appropriately) into the Cheeseburger Effect. Of course, I'm not being paid a zillion dollars to record Rock-A-Hula Baby, either. If I were, believe me, I'd be elvising it like nobody's business.

 The point is, there's more to this game than just being careful not to end a line with the word orange - the songwriter can be sandbagged by his own mind. So envy him, of course, dear reader, but pity him, too.

 There are several songs here which you can download - you'll need an mp3 player to listen to them. The lyrics to the songs on all the albums are available, thanks to Alan Freeman. There are links to the record companies who offer my albums for sale, and there's a new area called the gallery, for links, curios, and opinions which aren't always related to the studio.

Thanks for the visit,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean-Eudes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "E".

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