

Minnesota Music Hall of Fame

Inductee



Jack Volinkaty

Inducted in 2015

John (Jack) Volinkaty was born in St. Louis Park, MN. Three years later the family moved to Lafayette, MN, a town of 500 people. He attended Lafayette Elementary School and graduated from New Ulm High School. In 1965, Volinkaty connected with John Ginkel, Tom Ginkel, and Bruce Melzer. The Shags was then formed and this was the beginning of Jack's musical career. Jack's first guitar was a light blue Fender Jaguar electric guitar. The name "Shags" came from a superstitious ghost roaming around a Minnesota River road. Keith Verthein, a pharmacist from Lafayette, became the band's promoter. Jack wrote the famous song, "Satin Sheets", which took five minutes to write, a year to sell it and three years to make it big. In 1973 Jean Pruett picked up the song and made it a single. In addition, "Satin Sheets" has been recorded by a number of other famous artists including Loretta Lynn, Tammy Wynette, Dolly Parton, Barbara Fairchild and, most recently, Martina McBride. It was recognized by Broadcast Music, Inc. as one of the most performed songs in their repertoire of more than 3 million works. Jack Volinkaty passed away on September 4, 1992 after a two-month battle with lung cancer.

