Former Cop and Pastor Turns Midlife Crossroads Into Debut Country Single

Hollister, CA artist William Wyatt releases his debut single Sept. 18 — a neo-traditional country song about starting over at 50.



William Wyatt's debut single, "Once In a Blue Neon Moon," tells the story of a man questioning his choices at midlife — out September 18, 2026.

HOLLISTER, CA, UNITED STATES, September 18, 2026 / EINPresswire.com/ -- At an age when most people are settling into who they already are, William Wyatt is starting over. On September 18, 2026, the Hollister-based singer-songwriter will release his debut single, "Once In a Blue Neon Moon," a classic, neo-traditional country song about the moment a person realizes the life they built might not have turned out the way they wanted — and has to decide what to do about it.

Wyatt knows that moment well. He wrote the song while grappling with the loss of a career he loved in law enforcement, standing at a crossroads just shy of 50 and wondering, for the first time in decades, what came next.

"This song is about a guy in his midlife, looking at where he is and wondering if he's hit the ceiling," Wyatt said. "Is there more to life? Did he miss out on something by settling for what was familiar? That's really where I was when I lost my career as a police officer and had to ask myself what I was going to do next, at almost 50 years old."

The song unfolds in a familiar setting — a bar, late at night — where those questions get asked out loud, and answered honestly.

A Debut Built on a Real Crossroads

Wyatt chose "Once In a Blue Neon Moon" as his first single because it marks the exact spot where his life as an artist began.

"I felt this song's message represents where I began as an artist and songwriter," he said. "I was in this very place, approaching a crossroad. I would either despair, or I would answer the questions in the song and make my dreams a reality."

That answer took shape slowly. Wyatt started singing with a Bay Area cover band in 2022, but it wasn't until 2024 that he began writing his own material. He gave himself one year to record an original song. It took two — but on September 18, it happens.

"This is a newly found passion, and there's no time to lose," Wyatt said. "I'm almost 50 years old — more than half my life is already over. I've pursued other passions that didn't work out. This one is a crazy dream. It's delusional. So I gotta get after it."

"Yacht Country" for the Nostalgic and the Honest

Musically, Wyatt describes his style as neo-traditional '90s country — the kind built on vocals, mood, and story rather than trend. He performs live as part of an acoustic duo with longtime friend and bandmate John Castro on guitar and vocals, with Wyatt handling lead vocals and harmonica. The two have played together since 2022, when they were members of a Bay Area cover band. Wanting to move beyond a typical bar-band setlist, they coined a term for the sound they were chasing: "Yacht Country" — a nod to the way Yacht Rock captures a timeless, nostalgic mood rather than chasing the dance floor.

"I want people to hear a sound that's familiar to their country music collective memory," Wyatt said. "A story from real life. An honest confession about something that most country songs don't deal with today."

Three Lives in One

Part of what sets Wyatt's songwriting apart is what came before it. A tail-end Gen X'er, Wyatt has already lived two other lifetimes: one as a minister and pastor, and another as a law enforcement officer. An artist at heart, with a longtime habit of drawing and writing, Wyatt says both careers shaped how he understands people — and now fuel the stories in his songs.

Listen

"Once In a Blue Neon Moon" is available to pre-save now and releases everywhere September 18, 2026, including Spotify, Apple Music, and Amazon Music.

About William Wyatt

William Wyatt is a neo-traditional country singer-songwriter based in Hollister, California. A former pastor and police officer, Wyatt began performing with a Bay Area cover band in 2022 before turning to songwriting in 2024. Drawing on classic '90s country influences and a self-described "Yacht Country" sound, his debut single, "Once In a Blue Neon Moon," releases September 18, 2026.

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