

# Joe Gracey – Biography

Joe Gracey, from Fort Worth, Texas, was a natural-born communicator from an early age who became a country music disc jockey for KXOL-AM and FM while still in high school. He attended the University of Texas at Austin, earning a degree in American studies while moonlighting on Austin Top-40 station KNOW-AM and writing the Austin American-Statesman's first rock music column. In 1974, he joined Austin's KOKE-FM, the world's first progressive-country



radio station, and helped the station earn its Billboard magazine Trendsetter of the Year award. Gracey also served as talent coordinator for the first season of Austin City Limits, the longest-running music series on American television. Gracey left radio to establish Electric Graceyland studio, where he produced some of the first recordings by blues legend Stevie Ray Vaughan. In 1979, Gracey lost his voice to cancer, but continued engineering and producing, as well as performing as a bassist and rhythm guitarist. In 1996, he engineered Willie Nelson's groundbreaking album, Spirit. In 2003, he recorded Picture in a Frame, Nelson's duets album with Kimmie Rhodes, and the Grammy-nominated Nelson-Ray Price duet album, Run That by Me One More Time. A gourmet cook and wine connoisseur, Gracey contributed articles and recipes to Saveur magazine. Gracey's head and neck cancer returned in 2009. After a long battle with the disease, he died on November 17, 2011.