



R. W. HAMPTON PRESENTS:

Oklahoma . . . **WHERE THE WEST REMAINS!**

Cut-By-Cut

The Story of Oklahoma is the story of the west. Even though this album was created with the Oklahoma State Centennial in mind, it is an ever evolving story that educates, celebrates and commemorates what we Westerners love. This journey takes us from the Native Americans who first settled this land to the Freed Slaves and Buffalo Soldiers who were an integral part of our early history, to the great cattle drives and contemporary landscapes of our state. This 100 year story has much to say about our history and values. There is something for everyone.

- Edna Mae Holden

1. Where The West Remains

The melody line for this album started as a little 8 measure tune that I just couldn't get out of my head. For a couple of years I didn't know where to go with it but then it became the focal point for this whole project. Rich added a bridge to it and 3 1/2 years later we have an album based on that tune. It is used in various forms throughout the album and I consider it the glue that binds the entire project.

5. The Journey

This R.W. Hampton tune fits the story line perfectly of new beginnings and hearing it sung by R.W. backed up by a 40 piece orchestra was and still is a moving experience. It is a big song and very fitting of the Story of the west.

6. Run of the Cherokee Outlet

I wrote this song over 14 years ago to tell the story of the largest, most competitive event in history, the settlement of the Cherokee Outlet in Oklahoma and Kansas. At the sound of a gunshot, at noon on September 16, 1893, over 100,000 folks began a land run that resulted in the settling of the part of Oklahoma that we call home.

8. Words on Talking Leaves

Rich O'Brien is a man of few words but when he says something it is usually worth listening to. This is an eloquent writing that portrays the frustration and acceptance of the struggles that Native Americans must have felt as Oklahoma was being settled.

9. Keeper of the Plains

In 1994 my husband created a life size sculpture called Keeper of the Plains. As I watched him sculpt the piece, this song was what I imagined the Plains tribes would have felt.

11. A Cowboy I Will Stay

I wanted a song to historically touch on the major cattle drive trails that ran through Oklahoma but when I finished this song it was too long and narrative. While we were in the recording studio, we eliminated a couple of verses and R.W. worked the last verse over to pay homage to a couple of old friends, Ronnie Green and George Bittle and the contemporary cowboys who do work much the same way as 100 years ago. I think he did a great job of tying the past and present together.

12. Wish I'd Stayed in Jail

Rich O'Brien has a dry and colorful sense of humor and this song that he wrote shows that side of him. This is one story/song that you really have to pay attention to in order to get all the details.

17. Dusty Skies

R.W. made the selection for this song to represent the ever changing weather. This is such a beautiful Cindy Walker song and with the symphony strings added, it really makes it special.

19. Oklahoma Hills

I don't think we could have picked a more universally recognized tune to capture the history and tenor of this state.

21. On Jordan's Stormy Banks

I wasn't particularly familiar with this song when we started searching for an old gospel tune to fit in with the early day settlers segment of the album. When R.W. began to sing this song a capella, it really seemed like you could hear it being sung hundreds of years ago.

23. Oklahoma Towns

Merle Harmon and I wrote this song about 14 years ago. We wanted to tell the story of someone who can't wait to leave their home and get out on their own and then after awhile, they come to realize what they have left behind. R.W. has always liked this song and he really makes you believe he has lived this.

25. We've Taken Bob Back to Tulsa

Even though he was born a Texan, perhaps no other musician conjures up early day Oklahoma as Bob Wills being broadcast over KVOO in Tulsa. Rich really created a fine western swing tune with this song.

26. Will Rogers' Last Flight

This song is an example of two writers, collaborating separately over decades to make a great song. I think we are fortunate that the Spencer family allowed R.W. to put the music to this Tim Spencer lyric so that we could tell this story on the album.

29. The Everlasting Hills of Oklahoma

Tim Spencer is perhaps one of the most prolific western song writers to come down the pike. This beautifully written song paints a wonderful portrait of Oklahoma and her people. R.W. and the Orchestra give it a lot of depth in their performance.

31. For the Freedom

This is one of the most powerful songs I think R.W. has ever written. It is certainly as timely today as ever and the power of the Symphony behind his rich baritone voice really takes this song to a new level.

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