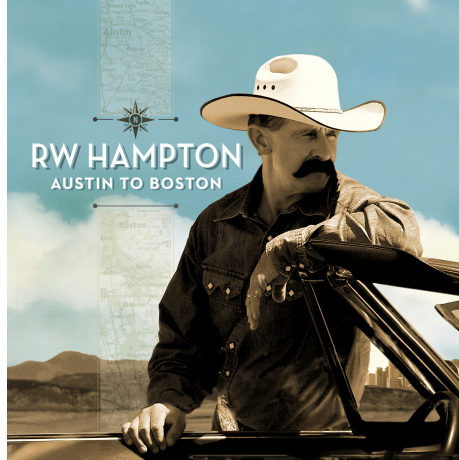


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R.W. Hampton
Austin To Boston
Cimarron Sounds/Savannah Music
rwhampton.com

R.W. Hampton has released many outstanding albums over the years. *Oklahoma: Where the West Remains* and the *Last Cowboy: His Journey* are considered among the best the Western genre has to offer. *Austin to Boston*, his latest, raises the bar again. From the spiritual overtones of "Cowboy's Prayer" to the breathtaking rendition of Eddy Arnold's "You Don't Know Me," the music is captivating.

The ghosts that influenced him are here, too. The record is haunted throughout by a subtle, underlying Marty Robbins ambiance, which is most noticeable on the traditional tune "Driftin' Again" and on the powerful ballad "Rodeo Man."

Celtic inflections also permeate *Austin to Boston*, like his sublime cover of the Irish classic "Danny Boy," which makes use of uilleann (pronounced ill'-in) pipes. Not surprisingly, the *Quiet Man* is Hampton's favorite John Wayne movie.

The record's musical diversity is astounding. Though the best surprise is the song "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" – the rockabilly ditty made famous by the British rock band Queen. Hearing it come from such a legendary cowboy troubadour seems shocking at first, but Hampton puts his signature Western swing to the tune and makes it his own.

As always, Hampton's voice is as clear as a Rocky Mountain stream, and this new album is among his best work.

-Michael Lohr