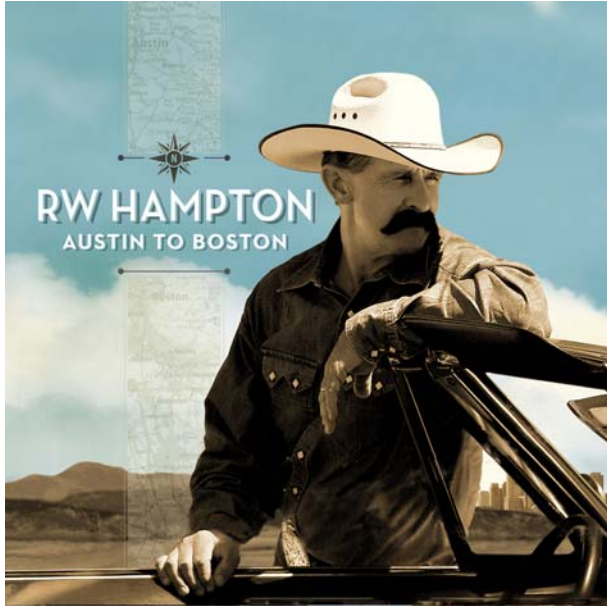


February 2011



COUNTRY MIX

R.W. Hampton – *Austin To Boston*

Cimarron Sounds

1. Back Home
2. Crazy Little Thing Called Love
3. Cowboy's Prayer
4. Dream On Little Dreamer
5. Danny Boy
6. Driftin' Again
7. Lady
8. Wherever You Are
9. Rodeo Man
10. You Don't Know Me
11. Job For A Cowboy
12. Kansas
13. Home
14. Shortgrass

One look at RW Hampton tells you that you will not be listening to contemporary Country. The deep handlebar moustache and the widebrimmed white Stetson of this native Texan paint a picture of an artist who admires the traditional values of everything Country.

Austin To Boston is a reflection of those values with a collection of traditional sounds mixed with a sprinkling of covers of some surprising tracks. It is interesting to find a traditional George Strait style ballad alongside a copy of the Queen classic, *Crazy Little Thing Called Love*. It is even more strange to find a version of the Irish traditional song, *Danny Boy*, and the Eddy Arnold classic, *You Don't Know Me*, in the heart of the otherwise delightful collection of gentle classic Country. However, I feel his arrangement of the Michael Buble chart topper, *Home*, is superb and delivers masses of emotion that raises the song to another level.

RW has a comforting, relaxed voice and his delivery is delightfully smooth and effortless. Tracks such as *Back Home*, *Cowboy's Prayer*, *Job For A Cowboy* and *Kansas* are all fine examples of contemporary arrangements of simple yet effective Country ballads and gentle rockers. Overall the album is a delight and, despite the odd variations in the song styles, I would recommend this collection to any listener who enjoys listening to a more laid back style of music such as that offered by Don Williams.

- Alan Perkins