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***R.W. Hampton's 'Shortgrass' wins Wrangler Award as Outstanding Original Western Composition of the Year***

(Nashville, TN – April 18, 2011) Brian Ferriman, personal manager of Cimarron Sounds recording artist [R.W. Hampton](#), is pleased to report that Hampton's song, [Shortgrass](#), has been honored by the [National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum](#) as this year's Western Heritage Award winner in the Outstanding Original Western Composition category. Hampton received his award, an impressive bronze sculpture of a cowboy on horseback (known officially and affectionately as the Wrangler) and performed the song, the final track on his critically-acclaimed current CD, [Austin To Boston](#), before a star-studded SRO audience at the 50th Annual Western Heritage Awards black-tie gala held on Saturday evening, April 16, at the Museum in Oklahoma City, OK. Also honored for their participation in the project were the album's producers, Joe DiBlasi and Gary Bright.

Commenting on his Wrangler award, Hampton explained, "I deeply appreciate this recognition for [Shortgrass](#). It's a special song to me. I wrote it as a tribute to my son, Cooper, and his best buddy, Dawson. They joined the Marines together during high school. Over the years, they've set foot in many countries and worn out their boots both overseas and around this great nation. They've always expressed their desire to return someday to our shortgrass country. *Shortgrass* was written in their honor and I accept this award in their honor."

Hampton's Wrangler Award is the latest in a series of recent indicators that point to his growing career momentum. Critical response to *Austin To Boston* has been remarkable: **"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."** (American Cowboy, February-March, 2011.) **"The world's number one cowboy country singer is back with a new collection of songs that will thrill existing fans and bring in thousands of new ones, too...The fourteen songs on "Austin To Boston" represent a tremendous achievement for R.W. Hampton."** (CountryChart.com, November, 2010.) Hampton's fan base is growing significantly: at last count, his Facebook Fan Page numbered more than 28,000 "Likers." And Hampton has been having notable success in the United Kingdom as well: *Driftin' Again*, the second European single from *Austin To Boston*, topped Britain's Hot Disc Country chart for eight weeks in late 2010 and by virtue of that performance was named the chart's Most Popular Song of the Year.

First presented in 1961, the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum Western Heritage Awards were established to honor and encourage the legacy of those whose works in literature, music, film, and television reflect the significant stories of the American West. Among others, this year's Wrangler Award honorees include the Coen Brothers film *True Grit*, starring Jeff Bridges, Josh Brolin, Matt Damon and Hailee Steinfeld, named Outstanding Theatrical Motion Picture, and the television film *Temple Grandin*, starring Claire Danes, Julia Ormond, Catherine O'Hara and David Strathairn, named Outstanding Television Feature Film.

This is Hampton's third Wrangler Award. In 2000, he received the Director's Award for Excellence in Dramatic Presentation and Original Music Composition for his album *The Last Cowboy - His Journey*. In 2008, he received the year's Outstanding Traditional Western Album award for his monumental CD project, *R.W. Hampton Presents: Oklahoma...Where The West Remains*.

More can be learned about R.W. Hampton at [his website](#). For preapproved hi-res images, bios, music, reviews and articles, and further material about R.W. Hampton, *Austin To Boston*, his twelve other albums and his fourteen music industry awards, please visit [Hampton's online electronic press kit](#) or contact Brian Ferriman.

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