

Jim Chesnut: striving to keep the music in country music.

April 21, 2018

Jim Chesnut is recovering from oropharyngeal cancer, which was diagnosed in the summer of 2017. After cancelling more than six months of performances, he has spent his time writing and producing new material that honors the rich heritage of melodic country music.

Jim has a Nashville pedigree that dates back to the late 1970s and early 80s. He left there in 1981, but began writing, recording and performing again in 2008.

“So much of what is being played on the radio today is a form of country music I don’t particularly like,” he says.

“I understand that each generation has its own musical identity, but the current crop lacks sufficient melodic content for my taste,” he explains.

“Melody is very important in music construction. It enables the listener to identify and remember a song. The one-note wonders played on big-market corporate radio today tend to sound exactly the same from one so-called song to the other.

“I am choosing to stay the course that I chose many years ago when I was part of the Acuff-Rose family.

“I have a hard time believing that my colleagues of that era, such as Mickey Newbury, Eddy Raven, Don Everly or Don Gibson could or would write such trivial material that exists today.

“Country music tells the human

story better than any other genre.

“It tells stories of how we live and how we die—of how we laugh and how we cry, or at least it once did. It can cover more relevant topics than pickup trucks, fishin’ holes, and booty and beer.

“Anyway, that’s my artistic intent, and I am pretty sure there are still music consumers around who can appreciate the beauty of melodic music,” Chesnut concludes.

His newest album, *I Sure Do Miss My Hair*, is his fifth self-produced CD since 2008. He has finally found his place as a country artist in the spectrum of country music performers that exists today. □



Cancer survivor Jim Chesnut photographed by John Lowrance at The Barbecue Station, San Antonio.

Discography

- **2016-2017:** Five consecutive national Top-10 indie country original songs from one album, *This Guy Sings!*. Three made it to #1, according to *IndieWorld Country Record Report* (IWCR). The first of those three, *Lost and Found Love*, became the nation’s #1 indie country record in late May 2016. The second, *True Love Is a Dance in Three Quarter Time*, hit #1 in late October 2016. The third, *A Little More You and a Little Less Me*, reached #1 on March 10, 2017
- **2015:** Another of his originals, *Another Day in the Life of a Fool*, debuted at #1 in *Roots Music Report’s* (RMR) True Country Singles Chart and remained in the top five for several weeks. It was his second single from his album, *Troubadours and Dreamers*.
- **2014:** That album was listed as a Top-30 album for the year in the RMR’s True Country Album Chart, with the single, *Oklahoma Morning*, reaching #6 in the True Country Singles Chart and #10 in *New Music Weekly’s* Country Singles Chart.
- **2013:** His single, *Get Aboard a Catamaran*, reached #12 in *New Music Weekly’s* indie and country charts.
- **1977-1981:** Major label recording artist and staff songwriter with Acuff-Rose Music, inc. in Nashville, TN. Ten Top-100 *Billboard* country singles, including two in the Top-40.

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One Grateful Cancer Survivor 2017
Three #1 National Indie Country Singles Since January 2016
Two Other Singles in the Top-10 Since January 2016
One National Indie Country Single Debut at #1 in 2015
One National Indie Country Top-30 Album in 2014

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