## Mp3 Benjamin Russell - Half Ton Truck



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Country music from one of the ends of the earth, a mix of traditional and modern. 14 MP3 Songs COUNTRY: Country Pop, COUNTRY: Country Folk Details: It's George Jones's fault! I'm a prodigal Country singer. I tried to run away, but came back and did this album. What caused this conversion? It's George Jones' fault! I work for an importer/distributor of musical instruments (among other things), and I found myself coordinating an auction to raise funds for charity that was to take place at the annual Canadian music trade show known as MIAC. Among the prizes donated was a Washburn guitar (which probably had Dean Markley strings on it, since it was donated by Dean Markley). Well, this was a guitar that George Jones had played, and the strings had obviously not been changed. When the guitar arrived, I opened the case, and since it looked like a nice guitar, I strummed a few chords to try it out. I didn't notice it right away, but I must have been infected with the Country Music bug. Some of George Jones' sweat must have rubbed off from those strings and infiltrated my system because it wasn't much later that, while going through some old songs, I realized that they weren't Pop or Rock, but COUNTRY. And it began to feel GOOD! So, you see, it all comes down to George Jones. Thanks, George! -- BIOGRAPHY (check my web site for more details and a full discography as well as a link to my 1985 music video, "Power of Love"): I was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, one of the ends of the earth. (If you drilled a hole through the center of the world and came out on the other side, you'd end up in Timbuktu, the other end of the earth.) I moved to Montreal on my way to New York, back in the early 70's, but stayed and evolved as an esoteric folksinger experimenting with MOR pop music, then took a left turn by joining a Punk band before landing a deal with Montreal dance king, Tony Green. My "Pop Modern(e)" album on the TGO label landed me a nomination as most promising male vocalist in the 1985 CASBY awards (Gowan won, but it was great to be nominated). I had a video on high rotation on Much Music, and even 5 years later, "Miracle" was one of the "Top 100 Songs of All Time", on CFNY, the radio station in Toronto that championed the album. When that deal went sour, I floundered for quite a while as an artist, but eventually rebuilt and evolved myself through a bunch of albums over nearly 20 years. Now, I've come full circle, back to the music I ran away from when I left Saskatchewan. I've written over 500 songs, recorded over 200 of them in one form or another, and continue to write new ones. Most of the time, I've written by myself, but have collaborated off and on with various people, most notably Kat Dyson, formerly of Tchukon. We co-wrote, "Principle of Emotion", which appeared on their album on the Aquarius label. I've also produced songs and albums for Jose Sierra, Patrick Kearney, Blue Champagne, Will Mein, and Tony Paduano.

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