

Mp3 Lonnie Spiker - Unapologetically Honky Tonk



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Texas Honky Tonk, Great Country, 2 Texas and world wide hits so far 13 MP3 Songs COUNTRY: Traditional Country, COUNTRY: Western Swing Details: Best In Texas O March 2005 No ApologiesNeeded- LonnieSpikerSTARS ON THE HORIZON * STARS ON THE HORIZON * STARS ON THE HORIZON * STARS ON THE HORIZON"How did you get to Texas?" is a loaded question to ask this teddy-bear like honky tonkerwith a hearty laugh. He's traveled the country, sharing the stage with Loretta Lynn and BillAnderson, and toured with his idol MartyRobbins. But for Lonnie Spiker the road to Texaswas a long one. Though he may not have beenborn a Texan, like the bumper sticker states, hegot here as fast as he could. "I think that was God's practical joke," laughsLonnie. " For some reason he placed me inPennsylvania. I think God is laughing and havinga ball over that." Geography didn't stop young Lonnie from beinginfluenced by the sounds of Texas music. Using acar radio that he built a transformer for, he wasable to tune in radio stations from over 1,000miles away, the sounds of Johnny Bush, GaryStewart, and Mickey Gilley pouring into his room. "I probably listened to more Texas radio thanmost Texans did!" exclaims Lonnie. He can tell you the day he decided that musicwas his life's calling. "I was about nine; my parents had taken me to the Grand Ole Opry forthe first time. Across from what is nowthe arena, my father and I wercoming around the corner, afterdropping off my Mother andgrandparents at the RymanAuditorium. As we were walking up 5th Street, around thecorner from Broadway, this guycame around with a guitar anda pair of patent leather bootsin one hand. I thought, 'Wow, this can be done, people reallydo this for a living!' We saw theOpry that night, and from thenon that was all I ever wanted todo." In his teen years, Lonniemas a member of L-Passo, a country swing band thatplayed all across the East. But after several years, the Nashville bug finallycaught up with him andhe headed to MusicCity to learn the songwriting craft. By day Lonnie was acompany manager. Atnight he

was a budding songwriter and performer. He got his first taste of success through a friendship with Ron Demmans, an Acuff-Rose songwriter. Demmans took him under his wing and together the two became songwriting partners, with several cuts and hits on the Canadian country charts. One day he found himself writing with a friend and confessed he was miserable. The albums that were being produced in Nashville had turned away from the sounds of people like Merle Haggard and George Jones who made him fall in love with country music. "There was no soul," Lonnie says of the music. "It had become cardboard, cookie cutter sounding. You used to hear many different styles on the radio that fell under the umbrella of country and lived together." In Texas music Lonnie found the environment that reminded him of the artists he grew up hearing. "Here there are different groups, with varied audiences and different sounds, but they all live together and learn from each other. I think that's a beautiful thing. That is music from the soul." In 2000, Lonnie started making his way to Texas to deliver his brand of country, western swing, and Texas honky tonk. He released his debut album, *My Future Ain't What It Used to Be*, in 2002, achieving several hits on both the Texas and European charts. His new album - appropriately titled *Unapologetically Honky Tonk* - got under way last year in Nashville, but Lonnie wasn't satisfied with the recordings. "I had cut up here several times, but wasn't getting what I was after. When I say 'Honky Tonk,' I want to hear a fiddle that's going to break your heart and steel that cries when it's supposed to cry." An avid Johnny Bush fan, Lonnie knew Johnny recorded in San Antonio at BGM Studios. "I was nuts over Bill [Green's] sound, especially this fiddle player I kept hearing in all of these Texas sessions. That was fiddle that knew how to hurt!" That fiddle player is Bobby Flores. With Green producing and musicians like Flores, Lonnie was able to record an album that he is extremely proud of. The highlight for Lonnie was getting to sing a duet with Johnny Bush on "Close Up the Honky Tonks." "I was so excited that you had to peel me off the ceiling tile," says Lonnie of recording with Bush. "Recording with him was quite an honor." *Unapologetically Honky Tonk* will be available April 1. For tour dates for this true honky tonker, visit LonnieSpiker.com.
By Angela-Marie Lampton
No Apologies Needed - Lonnie Spiker
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