

For those of you who, like me, are "Kids of the Baby Boom", I hope some of these songs will evoke memories of a simpler time in America. Every Saturday morning I watched my heroes...Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, Hopalong Cassidy, Sky King and The Lone Ranger on black and white TV. These men stood for right when right and wrong were clearly defined. They had a code that they lived by that included fairplay, courtesy, respect, tolerance and acceptance of others, especially if they were different or less fortunate than us. Even the way they spoke, composed themselves and dressed had a profound effect on all of us. To this day, I see things in myself that I realize are the unconscious result of their influence. Some of these songs are about real people, the characters they portrayed and the art they created. Some are about groups of people. Others are about places. Many are heroes....all are legends.

Yesteryear's Hero, Song For Sky, King of the Cowboys and The Last Singing Cowboy are obviously written for Clayton Moore (The Lone Ranger), Kirby Grant (Sky King), Roy Rogers (who was billed as the "King of the Cowboys") and Gene Autry who "always played himself" and was truly the last singing cowboy. (He passed away in 1998, two months after Roy) Songs like Angelyne and Te Amare Siempre Mi Amor are a salute to Marty Robbins. Who can forget his classic 1960 Gunfighter Ballads Album which featured "El Paso"....the first four minute AM Radio song!

The Ballad of Billy Rose was inspired by the "Spaghetti Westerns" and the music of Hugo Montenegro. It's dedicated to my good friend Billy Rose who is an accomplished cowboy singer/songwriter from Elko, Nevada. We perform at the Annual Cowboy Poetry Gathering at Elko.

Saddle Tramp pays tribute to the late, great actor Alan Ladd in the character of "Shane".

The once world famous "Palomino Club" of North Hollywood, California sadly is no longer there. Every musician, the unknown as well as the famous, who ever played L.A will remember "The Pal". We all played there. The wall of photographs and paintings of the artists who performed there was a who's who of country music royalty. I remember seeing Dwight Yoakam do a showcase there when he was still trying to get his record deal. I was driving in "the Valley" when I heard Dwight singing the "Late Great Golden State" in which he says "I caught one last glimpse of the Palomino". I drove to where the Palomino used to be. Twenty minutes later I had written "Hallowed Ground". Thanks Dwight!

The King of Nashville is for the singer/songwriters who pursued the dream but never quite broke into the mainstream. Some of these guys are cult legends and are responsible for the hits you hear the manufactured stars singing. Cowboy Poetry is dedicated to those cowboy bards who find time to compose and perform insightful and humorous poetry while keeping up with the rigorous demands of modern day cowboyin'.

Cowboys & Indians is for a group of people whose adherence to the beliefs of their ancient traditions makes them a living legend....the Native Americans.

And finally, Two Desperados is a reference to perhaps the greatest spiritual urban legend ever....Jesus of Nazareth. I hope some of the influences that shaped my life are the same that influenced you. For you younger listeners who are unfamiliar with some of these legends, they have websites. Give the music a listen and hopefully, you can find something to take away with you. I myself will carry that "something" with me the rest of my life. This CD has been a labor of love. I hope you enjoy it. See you somewhere down the trail.

Sincerely,
Ron Christopher



Ron Christopher

All songs (lyrics & music) written by Ron Christopher ©2008 BMI
Arrangements: Ron Christopher & Patrick Bolen
Engineers: Patrick Bolen, Paul Nurminen, Rob Davis & Nick Vitter
Produced by: Ron Christopher & Patrick Bolen (LA) & Harry Ravain & Rob Davis (N'aulins)
Executive Producer: Harry Ravain
All songs recorded at Bolen Sound Studio, Los Angeles, CA
Engineer: Patrick Bolen
Vocals on "Two Desperados" recorded at Red Light Studios, El Segundo, CA
Engineer: Paul Nurminen
Remixed at Bolen Sound Studios
Additional recording, final mixing and mastering: Uptown Audio, New Orleans, LA
Engineers: Rob Davis Nick Vitter and: Waymo Studio, Mark Keefner, West Hills, CA
Cover Art work & design: Andre Neff
Album Graphic Art: Charles Feldman at Creative Juices, Torrance, CA
Album Photography: Francky Caruso, Los Angeles, CA. frankycaruso@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.ronchristophermusic.com>
Web Site Photography: Sean Self & Evan Davis
Web Site Design: Dave Davis & Evan Davis

Rhythm & lead acoustic guitars: Ron Christopher
Electric guitars, pedal steel, dobro, mandolin, bass, keyboards & harmonica: Patrick Bolen;
Bass on "Angelyne": Rob Davis
Additional Electric Guitars on "Angelyne" & "Saddle Tramp": Allen "Alpo" Poche
"Spaghetti Western" Telecaster on "The Ballad of Billy Rose": Ron Christopher
Native American flutes on "Cowboys & Indians": Patrick "Dead Horse" Bolen
Violin & Fiddle: Matt Rhody
Fiddle on: "The Last Singing Cowboy": Steve "Curly" Keith
Trumpets: Daniel Gelman
Percussion: Rob Davis & Harry Ravain
Drums: Harry Ravain
"Peanut Drum" on "Cowboys & Indians": Rob Davis
Tambourines: Harry Ravain
Castinets on "Angelyne": Ron Christopher
Background Harmonies: Ron Christopher & Patrick Bolen
Vocal Accompaniment (voice like an angel) on "The Ballad of Billy Rose" & "The King of Nashville": Mary Heineman

Celebrity photos used with permission.

Published by Running Board Music, BMI, 1528 Lowerline St., New Orleans, LA 70118
President: Dave Davis 504-451-8260

