



JASON RINGENBERG RHINESTONED

The Framus guitar you see here is the first guitar I ever owned. I bought it the fall of 1976 just as the music fires in my heart were starting to burn. I paid \$50 for it from a private seller in Princeton, Illinois. It was old then. It is ancient now. In the sound hole it still reads (barely) "Made in the Heart of Bavaria."

That guitar was with me all through college and then into the early years of Jason and The Nashville Scorchers. It took a terrible beating with The Scorchers. It was stomped on (unintentionally) by Jeff, kicked across a stage (intentionally) by Warner, had a full pitcher of beer spilled into it in Lawrence, Kansas, then a Marshall stack fell on it in Dallas while we opened for the Ramones. It is the guitar I held on the *Reckless Country Soul* EP cover. Jeff played it on the first version of *Pray for Me Momma (I'm a Gypsy Now)*. In 1984 I mothballed it at our Sheffield farm and essentially forgot it until this Rhinestoned photo shoot. It is the perfect accessory for this release, a record populated by old souls.

The souls on *Rhinestoned* are old indeed. When I yelled that fade during *I Rode with Crazy Horse* I felt transported to another place and time, a time when the Lakota/Oglala/Cheyenne alliance was as powerful as many European nations. The American army never really defeated the Sioux/Cheyenne. They were tricked and cheated into surrendering. Crazy Horse was never defeated on a battlefield. He was murdered while being "escorted" into a prison. Recording *Rhinestoned* was a lonesome experience due to Covid-19 issues and restrictions.



Most of the time it was just producer George Bradfute and me hammering away in the studio. He wore a mask the entire time. The only communal experience was when we recorded the overdubs for *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*, a song my family often sang during quarantine. The session was on a lovely afternoon in June. Suzy and my mother-in-law Martha were there also. Camille went to bat first and nailed that difficult piano part in just a few takes. She then moved to the arranger chair and helped Addie nail those complex choir parts. It warmed my heart to see the two sisters work together so flawlessly – and to watch my music and family life merge. Addie sings like an angel on this song. No surprise there. She is an angel on this earth.

George's studio is in the basement of 1950s country superstar "Gentleman Jim" Reeves' house. He built the house at the height of his career in 1960, when most country stars moved "out" to Madison, a few miles north of downtown Nashville. His music-note floor tiles are still there, as is the original pine paneling. A few islands from the past have dodged the relentless wrecking ball of progress in boomtown Nashville. I thank God that George Bradfute's studio is one of them.

Jason Pridgen

Bon Aqua, Tennessee
Autumn 2020

Before Love and War

Arty Hill, Jason Ringenberg
Jason Ringenberg Music (BMI)

Blood red rose in the garden
Stranger's coat in the hall
Smell of smoke and a promise broken
Pride and then the fall

Chorus:

*What came before love and war
No suspicion no demands
A kind heart and an open hand
No more no more
No peace no release love and war*

Obsidian nights for hiding
Things you didn't want me to see
Like the wild horse you were riding
Through my sadness into the sea
Sint-Laureins in the evening
A boat on the canal
Ruins burning against the sky
Your perfume smothering all
The captain blows his whistle
The Flanders wind floats free
"Over the top" the sergeant yells
While your ghost is following me

George Bradfute - Gibson J-200 acoustic guitar,
Fender Stratocaster electric guitar,
baritone electric guitar, Gibson EB-0 bass
Fats Kaplin - pedal steel guitar
Steve Ebe - drums and percussion
Kristi Rose - harmony vocals
Jason Ringenberg - lead vocal

The Freedom Rides Weren't Free

Jason Ringenberg
Jason Ringenberg Music (BMI)

Time is more forgiving the farther back you look
It's easier to cut some slack to someone in a book
But when somebody smiles and says
"Well what's done is done"
You wonder what side they took in 1961

Who'd have thought an old bus
would be a battleground
Where Klansmen joined the governor
to beat so many down
Where just a few brave souls stood against the tide
To take their stand for justice and
make the Freedom Rides

Chorus:

*The Freedom Rides weren't free
no the Freedom Rides weren't free
A toll was paid in blood and soul
from south of Tennessee
You can quote your politics or U.S. history
For those who rode those busses
The Freedom Rides weren't free
For those who rode those buses
The Freedom Rides weren't free*

Yes I live in good ole Nashville Tennessee
Where superstars take selfies
and wave at you and me
Where not so long ago some college kids
combined their losses
To board a bus to Birmingham
to face the mobs and bosses

Through fire bombs and beatings
and jail for everyone
Those kids kept up their courage
and never held a gun
Or respond in anger or give what they received
Non-violence was sacred in all that they believed
From Anniston to Birmingham
and down in Mississippi
The eyes of time stare back at us
like tired ancient hippies
Echoes of those days now you will rarely hear
Except from those that were there
on either side so clear

George Bradfute - Gibson J-200 acoustic guitar,
Danelectro 6-string bass, Gretsch Chet Atkins
Deluxe electric guitar, Fender Stratocaster electric
guitar, Tokai Precision bass
Fats Kaplin - pedal steel guitar
Steve Ebe - drums
Jason Ringenberg - lead and harmony vocals

Nashville Without Rhinestones

Jason Ringenberg
Jason Ringenberg Music (BMI)

Nashville without rhinestones
it's closer than you think
Throw your records in the sea
and listen to them sink
The town has been corrupted its soul is now for sale
Nashville without rhinestones will be a perfect hell

Nashville without rhinestones
the prophets say it's coming
But this time it won't be dimes
musicians will be bumming
Folks in condominiums will drink a victory toast
Nashville without rhinestones
they will proudly boast
Nashville without rhinestones no not a single one
They will all be traded in for camouflage and guns
Cadillacs and Telecasters all will be forgotten
Nobody will sing about hogs or pickin' cotton
Nashville without rhinestones
you think that I've gone mad
Or trafficking in feelings too numb to make you sad
But out on the horizon I see a sinking ship
Filled with hillbilly ghosts on their final trip
Nashville without rhinestones
yea many folks they'll cheer
And drown themselves in burgundy
or local crafted beer
Me I think I'll step aside and play an old LP
Soaked in sweat and sorrow from 1963
Soaked in sweat and sorrow from 1953
Soaked in sweat and sorrow from 1943
Soaked in sweat and sorrow from 1933
Born of sweat and sorrow in 1923
George Bradfute - Gibson J-200 acoustic guitar,
Klein acoustic guitar, Gibson EB-0 bass, two antique
cellos, Carlo Robelli alto guitar
Fats Kaplin - pedal steel guitar
Steve Ebe - drums and percussion
Jason Ringenberg - lead vocal

The Storms Are on the Ocean with **Kristi Rose**

A.P. Carter, Maybelle Carter, Sara Carter
Peermusic (BMI)

George Bradfute - Gibson/Sisson Super 400
12-String acoustic guitar, Gibson J-200 acoustic
guitar, Epiphone upright bass, Gliga viola

Fats Kaplin - fiddles, accordion

Steve Ebe - drums and percussion

Kristi Rose - lead and harmony vocals

Jason Ringenberg - lead vocal

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Charles Wesley
Public domain

George Bradfute - Les Paul electric guitar, Fender
Stratocaster electric guitar, Fender Telecaster
electric guitar, Tokai Precision bass

Addie Ringenberg - harmony vocals

Camille Ringenberg - piano,

harmony vocal arrangement

Mark Andrew Miller - harmony vocals

Jason Ringenberg - lead vocal, acoustic guitar

I Rode with Crazy Horse

Jason Ringenberg
Jason Ringenberg Music (BMI)

Once I rode with Crazy Horse
I stood by him through his divorce
I stood by him when others ran
I stood by him when war began

I have no shame or dark remorse
Once I rode with Crazy Horse

You say this year is 1904
And you're a college professor
Here write down what I say
From the days so far away
And that our cause you do endorse
Once I rode with Crazy Horse

Well sharpen up your pencil good
So finally I'll be understood
At Greasy Grass we faced Custer
And all the power he could muster
I did my part to reinforce
When I rode with Crazy Horse

It wasn't all that long ago
We fought the white men in the snow
We fought the Crow and Blackfeet too
We fought folks that looked like you
I don't care much for you of course
Once I rode with Crazy Horse

Finally our tribe surrendered
To reservations all dismembered
But a few of us stayed out
For a year we fought the doubt
That we could beat relentless force
When I rode with Crazy Horse

On his day of reckoning
I stood by my friend and king
Some fools from our own reservation
Stabbed the hero of our nation
I tried to take that blade of course
When I road with Crazy Horse

We buried him where no one knows
Where no one looks and no one goes
So no one can desecrate
Or Christianize his final fate
By a dried-up watercourse
When I rode with Crazy Horse

My wife died in 1901
This reservation's lots of fun
I wait around to get my food
And whiskey puts me in the mood
To scream until my voice is hoarse
That "Once I rode with Crazy Horse"

Yes I was. I was there at the Battle of 100 Hands
when we tricked that bragging fool Fetterman into
our fatal trap. At the Battle where the Little Sister
Saved Her Brother. Then to Greasy Grass, what you
people call "Custer's Last Stand." Ha! I can tell you,
sir, that Custer didn't stand long that day. And then
into the Long Winter when most of the Lakota
surrendered to the reservation but we stayed out –
just a few of us hiding, starving, freezing, too weak
to even honor our dead. Then finally Fort Robinson,
where my friend and hero was murdered. I was
there weeping with his parents when we buried him
in that secret spot. God bless you, Crazy Horse.
Wakan tonka yuwankan t'shunka witko...

George Bradfute - Gibson Les Paul electric guitar,
Gretsch Deluxe Chet Atkins electric guitar, Crazy
Horse guitar pedal, Fender Stratocaster electric
guitar, banjo, Gibson/Sisson Super 400 12-string
acoustic guitar, Aria Diamond violin style bass

Steve Ebe - drums and percussion

Jason Ringenberg - lead vocal

My Highway Songs

Jason Ringenberg
Jason Ringenberg Music (BMI)

*The older I get the less I tend to write about myself.
This one, however, is 100% autobiographical.*

It's all a gamble an honest bet
Will songs take me places that I ain't been yet
Do they have vison a right and wrong
Is there a place in this world for my highway songs
When wheels are rolling sometimes I see
The road stretching forever to eternity
Is there a purpose both weak and strong
Is there a place in this world for my highway songs

When wheels are rolling sometimes I see
The road stretching forever to eternity
Is there a purpose both weak and strong
Is there a place in this world for my highway songs

Now movement is healthy and change is good
And deep inside I know I'm doing what I should
Then how come I keep wondering where I belong
Is there a place in this world for these
highway songs

The rhythm of the road can be spellbinding
I think that I'm in charge and that I am a king
But either as a king or as a lonely pawn
Is there a place in this world for my highway songs

A song can be a lover or a true best friend
And it will not forsake you when you reach the end
Still I have the question that goes on and on
Is there a place in this world for my highway songs



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George Bradfute - Gibson J-200 acoustic guitar, Gibson A-3 mandolin, baritone guitar, Hofner bass, antique cellos
Fats Kaplin - pedal steel guitar, fiddles
Steve Ebe - drums and percussion
Camille Ringenberg - high harmonies
Jason Ringenberg - lead and harmony vocals

Time Warp

Steve Cash, Randall Chowning
Universal Music Group

George Bradfute - Gibson J-200 acoustic guitar, Gibson L-12 archtop acoustic guitar, Fender Telecaster electric guitar, Aria Diamond bass
Fats Kaplin - pedal steel guitar, fiddles
Steve Ebe - drums and percussion
Mark Andrew Miller - harmony vocals
Jason Ringenberg - lead vocal

You Win Again

Hank Williams
Sony ATV Music

George Bradfute - Fender Stratocaster electric guitar, Gibson Les Paul, Aria Bass
Fats Kaplin - pedal steel guitar
Steve Ebe - drums and percussion
Mark Andrew Miller - harmony vocals
Jason Ringenberg - lead vocal, harmonica

Stoned on Rhinestones

Jason Ringenberg
Jason Ringenberg Music (BMI)

Once I had a job and security
No bad habits ever haunted me

I was Johnny on the spot sober as a ghost
Wild as I got was jelly on toast
Then one night everything changed
I heard old Hank and I got deranged
CHORUS:
Now I'm stoned on rhinestones
Nobody saw this a comin'
My baby says she is gonna leave me
If I don't quit my guitar bummin'
I'm stoned on rhinestones with a
Telecaster in my hand
I'm gonna find a satisfied mind pickin'
in a hillbilly band

People get hooked on all kinds of stuff
Lives get ruined and relationships rough
Drugs and dope liquor and booze
Giving up hope with nothing to lose
I know I'm nothing like that
I'm hooked on Hank and a Stetson hat

Once I had everything money can buy
A three story house reaching up to the sky
I drove down the road in a black Cadillac
Had a big ole yard and a pool out back
Then I heard Honky Tonk Blues
Now I'm in a honky tonk paying my dues

George Bradfute - Gibson J-200 acoustic guitar, Klein acoustic, DeArmond X-155 guitar, Fender Telecaster electric guitar, Aria Diamond bass
Fats Kaplin - pedal steel guitar
Steve Ebe - drums and percussion
Mark Andrew Miller - harmony vocals
Jason Ringenberg - lead vocals

Keep That Promise

Todd Cerney, Jason Ringenberg
Sony-Crosskeys (ASCAP) Jason Ringenberg Music (BMI)

I wish I had a dollar for every time you said
That you'd be true when you were
running around instead
Count up all your promises I'd be a millionaire
Before you make another one I've got some
news to share

Chorus:

You can keep that promise keep it to yourself
I'll bet you've got another dozen up on the shelf
They're all upkept and keeping good company
You can keep that promise keep it to yourself
You may want to use it on somebody else
But if you want to use it don't use it on me

So now you're telling me that you've
given up your cheating ways
And you'll do anything anything to make me stay
But darling you can cross your heart
and hope our love won't die
But you're as good as your word
And from what I've heard baby the word's
goodbye

George Bradfute - Stratocaster, Fender Telecaster electric guitar, Gibson J-200 acoustic guitar, Tokai Precision bass
Steve Ebe - drums and percussion
Mark Andrew Miller - harmony vocals
Jason Ringenberg - lead vocal, harmonica

Window Town

Bob DiPiero, Jason Ringenberg
Sony ATV(BMI) Jason Ringenberg Music (BMI)

Step outside and you get killed or sued
Misunderstood or maybe misconstrued
So up the walls go to try to keep our peace
But it seems no matter how I try
A window always lets them get inside
No lock or curtain can keep you safe for me

Chorus:

Window up window down
Here in this window town
I'll take you underground
We'll find a way to hide in this window town

I can see it when I close my eyes
I can see you standing safe inside
No cloud of danger over me and you
But through the curtains I can hear the sound
Of all the voices in the window town
Drowning out what I want to be to true

On a hill outside of town
There's a light that's shining down
Through the window I can see
It's there waiting for you and me

George Bradfute - Gibson J-200 acoustic, Alden 12-String electric guitar, baritone electric guitar, Tokai Precision bass
Fats Kaplin - steel guitar
Steve Ebe - drums and percussion
Kristi Rose - harmony vocals
Jason Ringenberg - lead vocal

Executive Producers - **Jack Kolmansberger, Jennifer Reavis, Bratten Thomason, Janet Maxwell, Jason de Pass, Antti Laine, Roland Karlsson, Wim Jansen, Christopher J. Meier, Chad Fleaner, John Manning, Bernt Bakken, George Meechan, Thom and Tina Kelley, Jeremy Bent, Mark Scott, and Bill Reiser**

Produced, engineered, and mixed by **George Bradfute**
at The Tone Chaparral, Madison, Tennessee, in the summer of 2020

Layout and graphic design, creative consultation,
social media and website management - **Paul Needham**

Photography - **Scott Willis**. Shot on location at **Brian White's**
home and **Tidball's**, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Photograph of Jason and George at The Tone Chaparral by **Suzy Ringenberg**
Photograph of the Crazy Horse monument by **Jim Bowen**

Song sequence - **Stace England**
Additional sequence consultation - **Peter Cooper, Paul Needham**
Lakota translation on I Rode with Crazy Horse - **Bruce Hilton**
Copy editing and proofreading - **Lori Timm**

Jason's magnificent gold rhinestoned shirt - **Jennifer Reavis**
Custom made guitar strap - **Brad Williams**
Leather cowboy hat - **Gigi Gaskin** at **hatWRKS**
Reindeer antler guitar pick - **Jouko Hiltunen, Rovaniemi, Finland**

Project seeds planted by **Mary Sack**
Generous marketing advice - **Will Kimbrough and Otis Gibbs**
Legal representation and true friendship - **Wayne Halper**
Technology support - **Diane Davis**

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Jason proudly uses **Epiphone Guitars, D'Addario Strings,**
and **Planet Wave Accessories.**

Thank you to **Steven Miller, Beth Heidt,** and **Jay Lawrence**
at **Epiphone** for guitar support.

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Epiphone
D'Addario

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Jason and George at The Tone Chaparral

Special thanks to **George Bradfute**, whose deep musical talents, production skills, and sympathetic ears never cease to bring wonder to my world.

Special thanks to **Paul Needham**, whose vigilant care and world-class talents are fundamentally important to the creation, imaging, and marketing of my music.

Jason is online at jasonringenberg.com
facebook.com/jasonringenbergmusic
youtube.com/jasonringenbergmusic
twitter.com/jasonringenberg



This album is dedicated to the memory of the **Freedom Riders**, many of whom came from Nashville. Those young Black and white civil rights activists stood up to violent mobs, Jim Crow government systems, and white supremacists by using only non-violent tactics and basic Christian principles. They were beaten, jailed, ostracized, and sometimes kicked out of college for their actions. They fought their battles with little national or legal support. Most have passed away or soon will cross over. May we never forget their stories or their example.



**FORWARDS EVER
BACKWARDS NEVER**

- Betty Ringenberg