

Laid Back IN LEE



Brantley Gilbert

Halfway to Heaven hot off the press

By Jim Clark
Publisher

Remember outlaw country? The days of Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings and David Alan Coe. Then when Hank Williams Jr. hit the charts with a bullet they called it "new country." Country has been kick started again with Brantley Gilbert. Brantley sings about heartache and trials but with a Skynyrd feel. It was a near-fatal car wreck that opened Brantley's eyes.

Prior to the wreck the Jefferson, Georgia native had about given up on making records, and had settled in to everyday life and playing bars once and awhile.

"I realized the importance of living each day to the fullest, and decided to pursue music as a career," Brantley said.

He started to get noticed as a songwriter when Jason Aldean picked up "The Best of Me."

But it was the wreck that began the career. *There's a live oak tree you can see off ol' 129*
You can see the scar it's missin' bark where it stopped my truck that night
They say I took a swing at my best friend for trying to take my keys
Next thing I knew I was upside down thinking this is it for me

This is powerful country with a rock 'n' roll edge. The lyrics are from "Halfway to Heaven" also the name of his second CD which released Tuesday.

The CD is a testament of a young man who felt the fires of hell and seemed to pull back just in time. Good stuff.



Jimmie Lee

Jersey outlaw packs Vegas, releases killer live CD

By Jim Clark
Publisher

Let's go. That's the powerful anthem that kicks off Jimmie Lee's *Live in Las Vegas* CD. It also sums up an attitude that is going to move Jimmie Lee from a relatively unknown independent artist to a chart-topping country rocker. After all, the music was recorded during a set of four concerts given in Las Vegas that were sold out, standing room only.

Jimmie is a showman, knowing style can be every bit as important as the music. He's backed by a talented bunch of rock musicians who throw in the country charm of fiddle, harmonica and slide guitar. He adds flashing lights, smoke and a group of young ladies he calls the Bandito Dancers to the show, in case the men in the audience grow tired of looking at him.

Most of his music is hillbilly AC/DC with the consistant themes of driving fast, chasing women and having a drink or two. Stand out cuts are "Steel Guitars and Whiskey," "Memphis Time" and "Gimme A Holler, Hell Yeah."

Jimmie says "Gimme A Holler" is "a feel-good country-rockin' drinkin' party song with a great driving, slam your fist on the bar beat. easy to dance to. solid backline band and fun to sing along with. great live performance opener to get the crowd on their feet, throwin' back and involved in the show."

If you need to kick up your mood, look no further and plug in *Jimmie Lee - Live in Las Vegas*. www.jimmieleesongs.com

Gentle spirit leaves behind masterful legacy of music

By Jim Clark
Publisher

As I listened to the re-releases of Kenny Rankin I had a mixture of feeling. I was upset that I'd missed this gem of a musician when he was alive. But I am thankful his gentle spirit and songs have been preserved.

Kenny passed in June of 2009 from terminal lung cancer.

He was Johnny's Carson favorite. He had him on his late-night show 25 times.

Kenny was not just known for his songwriting, but other songwriters always enjoyed his take on their songs.

Paul McCartney asked Kenny to perform his version of "Blackbird" when McCartney and Lennon were inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Though often tagged as an American pop and jazz singer — it's really hard to peg Kenny with a genre. On his *Like A Seed* album there's a song "Comin' Down" that ventures into psychedelic rock.

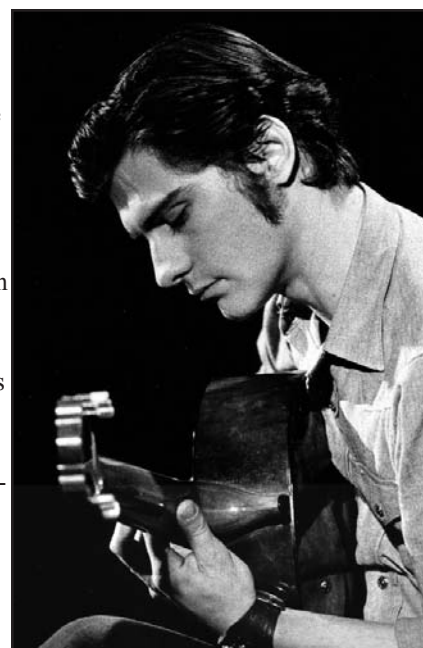
"House of Gold" off *The Kenny Rankin Album* has a country gospel flare to it.

I imagine Kenny would prefer we don't try to categorize him and instead just listen.

Sly Dog Records re-released and remastered six of Kenny's most pivotal CDs.

Label President Denny Stilwell comments, "Kenny's gift and these landmark recordings are a treasure, and it's an honor to be involved with their reintroduction."

For more go to www.mackavenue.com/kennyrankin



Kenny Rankin

UPCOMING CONCERTS

MEGADETH 03/23/10 Minglewood Hall, Memphis	RANDY TRAVIS 04/10/10 Gold Strike, Robinsonville
G. LOVE 03/29/10 Workplay, Birmingham	KELLER WILLIAMS 04/22/10 Workplay, Birmingham
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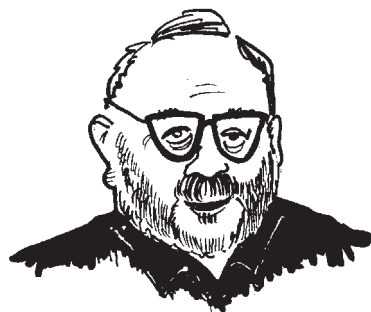
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Isness

Eckhart von Hochheim (c. 1260–c. 1328) commonly known as Meister Eckhart, was a German theologian, philosopher and mystic, who said that "Isness is God."



**Southern
Philosophy**
By Filo Ipsos

Isness to me is knowing the reality of what is. The reality of what is, has been, and will in the future, be determined by scientific discovery of the world and universe in which we live. The "Life Force of the Universe," that is the same as Eckhart's Isness, is our real existence, and continues to create all that is, and all that will be in the future.

The reality of great food in Tupelo, however, can be found at lunch or dinner any day of the week at Vanelli's Greek & Italian Restaurant. Feed the "Life Force" within your body with a perfect meal at Vanelli's.

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