

## Tony Ramey Biography

Tony Ramey grew up in West Virginia on Bluegrass and Bill Withers; found Willie, Waylon, Cash, and Kristofferson at eleven, who compelled him to write songs; then heard Steve Earle who made him move to Guitar Town to hone his craft; and he left for Texas when the road called him out again...

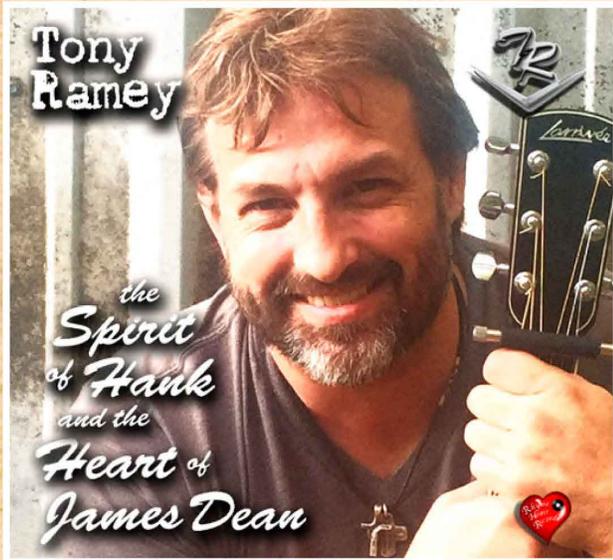
Somewhere in the middle of all that he acquired a Masters, taught at a university while working on his PhD, and garnered Gold and Platinum Records as a songwriter in Nashville. Currently he tours the US and Texas, where he has been named 2016's Independent Artist of the Year by the Texas Country Music Association.

With the exception of his release *Soul Survivor*, featuring a duet with the iconic Willie Nelson (also a new fan of his music), Tony Ramey has not caught much press. Yet, he is still grabbing the attention of industry people, and growing his audience by leaps and bounds because of his undeniable prowess as a singer/songwriter, and his passion for playing live. Ramey has spent most of his music career flying below the media radar, refusing to don make-up and perform the dog and pony show for the camera. Not a fan of glitz and glamour, Tony prefers the troubadour life-style, and the solace of his writer's getaway between shows where he says he can "be alone with nature, his thoughts, and the eternal spring of the Art Spirit."

It's not uncommon for artists of Ramey's ilk to find a low profile as a result of an obsessive pursuit of the next song, next town, next project, or the next artistic endeavor, forsaking photo ops and publicity driven functions...So following the bohemian path that most true artists naturally follow, Tony occupies an awkward middle ground in terms of his recognition. His name rings a bell outside his touring routes because he is a giant in terms of his craft. Most listeners understand the power of his gift only upon experiencing it first hand--at a show or by hearing one of his records. Industry icons like Willie Nelson and George Strait know his name well because of his status as a poet in the purest sense of the word.

Ramey admits that his current project *Spirit of Hank and the Heart of James Dean* came at a strange time. He says of contemporary music and the state of the industry, "We live in an age when the album is obsolete, the song is incidental to the artist's brand, and artists seem only as popular as their pockets are deep. But I still make music the way I want to make it. There are awesome opportunities out there for Indie's these days--Kickstarter, crowd funding, Indy Labels, etc.--so all is not lost in big business; we just have to work a little harder for a little less. Nobody told me this life would be easy, and I don't mind the sweat." With songs like "The Spirit of Hank and the Heart of James Dean," "This Ain't No Country," "Ramblers," "Pocatalico," "Almost Had Me There," "Ain't Gettin' Anywhere," "Lonely Heart," and "Good Kinda Crazy," Ramey's next album is chalk full of powerhouse songs that will continue to turn heads and wow audiences everywhere.





## Tony Ramey New Release



**ARTIST:** TONY RAMEY  
**TITLE:** SPIRIT OF HANK AND THE HEART OF JAMES DEAN  
**LABEL:** RHYME HEART RECORDS  
**STREET:** 8/26/16  
**PART#:** SED7258  
**EP UPC:** 662582725827  
**PRICE:** \$13.98  
**GENRE:** SINGER/SONGWRITER/AMERICANA



### TRACKLIST:

1. SPIRIT OF HANK AND THE HEART OF JAMES DEAN
2. POCATALICO
3. THIS AIN'T NO COUNTRY
4. HARD TIME LEAVIN'
5. YOU ALMOST HAD ME THERE
6. AIN'T GETTIN' ANYWHERE
7. HALF THE THINGS MY MAMA SAID
8. LONELY HEART
9. GOOD KIND OF CRAZY
10. NOT HUNGRY ANYMORE
11. RAMBLERS
12. LOVE THING RIGHT
13. I DON'T KNOW YOU

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[www.tonyramey.com](http://www.tonyramey.com)

### Review:

*Spirit of Hank and the Heart of James Dean* is Tony Ramey's ninth album, and his third installment since his relocation from Nashville to Texas. With the famed Willie Nelson duet, the songs on his album *Soul Survivor* inducted the troubadour into the elite club of history's outlaws and legends, but *Spirit of Hank* is no less powerful in its continuation of the themes introduced by Ramey's last record.

If ever a song could be sung in bold-faced type, that's just how Ramey sings the title track, which introduces the album. The verses in a Haggard-esque baritone set the mood for a soaring chorus in a voice full of gravel roads and mossy oaks. Listening to "Spirit of Hank and the Heart of James Dean," it's difficult not to feel the depth and meaning in such unapologetic lyrics:

...  
*I remember feelin' so young, turnin' the radio up  
A die-hard fan of "Jack and Dianne" and Chevy Trucks  
Well, it didn't take long to figure it out just where I stand  
Somewhere between the left and the right and just don't give a damn*

You don't have to search very hard or long for clues about where Ramey's been and where he's going in this collection either. In his songs "Ramblers," "Pocatalico," and "Half the Things My Mama Said," he sings of the regret, nostalgia, and longing indicative of the American rebel with a hint of Kerouak and Kristofferson in the landscapes; while "This Ain't No Country," "Hard Time Leavin'," "I'm Not Hungry Anymore," and "I Don't Know You" reveal a sense of displacement in this troubadour's dichotomous world of freedom without belonging.

This collection does not present with quite as many songs, but Ramey seems to have sharpened his double-edged sword with thirteen well-crafted tunes that still rise far above many these days, even in the class of Americana Folk. By this album, Ramey lets us know he is very much like the rest of us, as divided as the highways he travels on and as everchanging as the rivers he's crossed to get where he is today.

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- Broadcast Music Incorporate Award Winning Songwriter
- CMA of Texas Independent Artist of the Year 2016
- CMA of Texas New Song of the Year 2018
- Texas CMA Country Gospel Songwriter of the Year

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES