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★ RICK AND THE ALL STAR RAMBLERS ★

NEWS
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Their Last CD - Release Date - March 23, 2025



"THE 2ND BESTEST SONGS I EVER WROTE"

As Selected By Rick Norcross

"March 23, 2025. Today is my Birthday and today I am 80 Years Old. I have focused my life on making music since I was 16. It took me a very long time to get off the runway because I wasn't very good for a very long time. Today, with the release of my last album, the third CD of my "Farewell To Fans Trilogy." I end a long and satisfying music career having played over a 1,000 shows, recorded 16 albums and relentlessly insulted audiences near and far."

RICK NORCROSS HAS LEFT THE STAGE

After more than 60 years as a singer, songwriter, band leader and recording artist, Rick Norcross, has hung up his guitar. The release of "The 2nd Bestest Songs I Ever Wrote" marks the third and final record album of his "Farewell To Fans Trilogy" on the Airflyte Records label.

It took three albums, "God Bless The Mighty Pickle," released in 2023, "The Bestest Songs I Ever Wrote," the most beloved songs selected by Rambler Fans, released in 2024 and today's debut, "The 2nd Bestest Songs I Ever Wrote," songs selected by Rick Norcross, to complete his retirement trilogy. The songs on this album are his most personal and sends the message about his music that he wanted to leave with his fans. The three trilogy CDs contain 33 original songs, most about life in Vermont and the living of it.

Here are details of the first two albums of the "Farewell To Fans Trilogy:"

THE FIRST "FAREWELL TO FANS TRILOGY" CD - "GOD BLESS THE MIGHTY PICKLE"

Released in 2023, The title song honors the Ramblers' faithful tour bus of 22 years with spoken word messages from Country Music Hall of Fame and five time Grammy award winner, Marty Stuart. Dave & Boots Wright of Ocala, Florida purchased the 1957 Fixible Starliner and directed an extensive three year restoration. After which they donated the coach to Marty Stuart for his "Congress of Country Music Museum in Philadelphia, Mississippi, where she is featured today and will be seen by millions of country music fans.

Two songs on the CD pay tribute to luminaries of the Vermont country music scene from 50 years ago. Coco Kallis sings her northeastern hit "New England Song" and Rambler Dave Rowell sings the legendary Hardwick fiddler Tony Washburn's "Love's Coming Through." Anson Tebbetts, Vermont's Secretary of Agriculture, asked Rick to write a song about fake milk... the result - "Moo Cow Milk," now receiving national airplay. Jamie Lee Thurston flew in from Nashville for a duet on "My Kissing Days Are Over," a song about the Covid-19 shutdown of Vermont after Governor Phil Scott instructed everyone to stay home. "Music Royalty" Jonathan Edwards came over from Maine to nail a harp part on "Out In The Cold."

In addition to The All-Star Ramblers, The “God Bless The Mighty Pickle” CD project featured a Who’s Who of Vermont music legends including The Blue Gardenias, Banjo Dan Lindner, Jon Gailmor, Jim Pitman, Coco Kallis of Coco & The Lonesome Road Band, Jamie Lee Thurston and, from Maine, Jonathan Edwards, all appearing on what has become the Ramblers most successful album of all.

By July 30, 2024, “God Bless The Mighty Pickle” was listed at the Number 2 position for the third month on the “Indy Express Top 20 Picks of the Month” (national publication), was Number 6 on the “10 Most Played Western Swing Albums,” Western Way Magazine, Spring Issue (national publication) and Rick Norcross was listed at the Number 4 slot for the fourth month on the “List of the Top 10 Famous Singers from Vermont” (national publication).

THE SECOND CD OF THE TRILOGY” - “THE BESTEST SONGS I EVER WROTE”

“The Bestest Songs I Ever Wrote” CD was novel in how the songs were selected for the album. Emails went out to all Rick & The All-Star Ramblers Fans, Ramblers Sponsors Past and Present, Radio Professionals, Music Journalists and Colleagues asking them to select their most beloved Ramblers songs. This album features 15 original songs, each one chosen by Rambler Fans as their favorite tunes.

“The Bestest Songs I Ever Wrote” was the spotlight on Saturday, August 10th, on Western Swing Hall of Famer Billy Bowles “Swinging Country” radio show with a World Radio Premier feature on KSSL-FM Radio in Lubbock, Texas. Billy Bowles played eight tracks from the new CD release and visited on-air with Rick Norcross about the album. “Swinging Country” is broadcast on Saturday mornings from 10 am to noon, central time. It’s a top-rated Western Swing internet program, streaming on four additional radio stations in Nashville and around the Southwest, as well as in Australia, England, Ireland, Scotland, Spain and South America.

RICK NORCROSS HAS LEFT THE STAGE

“I want to salute you. As a friend, ambassador and champion of a music that so many hold dear in their hearts, you and the Ramblers have fought the good fight for so many years, so many miles. It is an honor to be a part of your legacy by way of The Mighty Pickle,”

...Marty Stuart, Member Country Music Hall of Fame & Five Time Grammy Award Winner

“Some songwriters have the gift of great lyrics, others have the gift of compelling melodies and chordal arrangements. Some fortunately have both. Rick Norcross is a songwriter in that elite group who has both.”

...Lane Gibson, Owner, Lane Gibson Recording & Mastering Studios

“Enjoyed your new lyrics ...keep ‘em flowing! I have always enjoyed your music and recordings and appearances ...one of my favorite artists of all time! ...Love, Carolyn”

...Carolyn Hester, Columbia Recording Artist

“It’s a fabulous collection, Rick, not only of songs but of musicians who love you and your music dearly! I so appreciate the honor of being on this amazing disc, but especially the sublime honor of being your friend and co-conspirator. Enjoy your “retirement” and thanks for enriching all our lives in so many ways! Love, Jon”

...Jon Gailmor, Singer, Songwriter and Vermont Treasure

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