

## Randy Thompson, Virginia, USA – [www.randythompson.net](http://www.randythompson.net)



**Americana, Virginia**

### **Country, Roots Music von den Hügeln von Virginia**

Virginia's Piedmont region has provided a backdrop for some of our history's most turbulent and formative events and produced an uncommonly rich variety of compelling musical styles and voices, from blues to country to bluegrass and beyond. It's a heritage that Virginia-based singer/songwriter Randy Thompson intuitively understands and brings vividly to life. His work lovingly embraces the past even as it pulls it – kicking, picking, singing, rocking – all the way into the 21st Century.

Now five CDs into an eclectic and powerful career that has included 3 top 40 Americana CDs, Randy Thompson continues to make his home in small town Virginia and his music on the wings of a flooded soul. His arrangements reflect the diverse roots music influences he has sought out through the years. Like his musical antecedents, he tends to draw inspiration directly from his own experience and the world around him, creating starkly drawn musical and lyrical pictures. Thompson says, "Song craft isn't what turns me on. It's the blood and the soul that you put into those words, the feeling you get when you hear the rhythm and the melody -- that's what it's about for me. I don't want people to hear my songs and say, 'Wow, that's well-crafted.' I want them to hear a song, and say, 'Man, I know how he feels.'" His 1998 debut, *Wearin' Blue*, garnered widespread critical raves, while his 2004 sophomore release *'That's Not Me'* generated significant national and international airplay, debuting at No. 1 on the International Hotdisc Radio chart and reaching top 40 on national Americana, Country, and Roots Rock charts. Several reviewers listed *'That's Not Me'* as one of the top 10 releases of 2004.

It was the release of the album *'Further On'* in 2008 that took Thompson to a whole new level. The album opened many new doors for the artist including, many European tours, national television, a movie soundtrack

appearance, and an NPR radio special. The positive reviews were unanimous. Brian Ahern from Country Music UK said, "for me, this is the very essence of what country music is all about.... Through Randy Thompson and *'Further On'* country music has done it again".

2012's *'Collected'* was a compilation of 15 tracks recorded over 13 years, including 3 newly released tracks and a 2011 single. The album includes 8 International Hotdisc top 10 singles and a top 40 American country single *'Sound Of The Rain'*. Nashville's John Lomax 3rd said the album "cuts and slices the stuff Nashville has been issuing into little tiny pieces". It reached the top 20 on the Route 66 chart, FAR chart, Roots Music Report as well as Euro Americana chart. In some markets it reached as high as #1. *Outlaw Magazine* and *Country Music People* among others called *'Collected'* one of the top 10 albums of 2012. Jerome Clark of *Rambles.Net* stated "if you are wondering what 21st-century country music should be like, look no farther". The *Washington Post* said of a recent performance, "He can really put it across in a live setting with undeniable confidence....a compelling performer". Touring with his son Colin Thompson on guitar (on *Alternate Root Mags.* list of the top 21 roots music guitar players for 2013), the Randy Thompson Band is on the road in 2014. Shows are planned in the north east and mid atlantic states as well as, Switzerland, Austria, France and Germany.

Forged on the road and carved from hard-lived experience the artist himself, is naturally resistant to pigeonholes. Call it country, call it roots music, call it Americana; in the end it's the sound of Randy Thompson, raw and real. It's the sound of an artist who knows where he comes from and where he stands. It's the sound of the Virginia hills, of war and peace and love and fear. Randy Thompson's music is the simple, sometimes sad, beautiful sound of the truth.

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## Some *Collected*-Reviews:



Randy Thompson's latest cd, no matter what style of music you like this is one cd that in my opinion should be in any music fan's collection. **I can't stop playing it**, the more I hear it the more I keep playing it. If you like Steve Earle, Joe Ely kind of outlaw country that can rock as good as any rock'n'roller then Randy is your new man on the block as far as quality songwriting. Great vocals and musicianship goes. *Chris R Jackson-Americana International – UK*

“ This is robust roots rock, delivered with heart and muscle. Thompson has a distinctive and compelling voice that is tinged with experience and regret. Behind that voice these songs are delivered with a conviction and forcefulness... **the sound is one that cuts through and stays in the mind**.... it is well-performed music that sits left of the mainstream. Americana delivered with a rockin' punch that still has it's place today.” *Lonesome Highway*

Randy Thompson has made it a point to paint out-side of the lines musically. There's some Country, Americana, and a pinch of Roots Rock to be heard all over his latest collection. While the style varies, one constant throughout the album is his rough and lived-in voice has already started to make a world-wide impact. he combines all of the musical styles that influences him. the stunning closing track “Bring On Down The Rain,” shows his grittier side to great effect. As always, Thompson outdid himself. *Music News Nashville - Chuck Dauphin*

\*\*\*\***1/2 out of 5.** “All I can say is that real authentic country-rock is alive and well and lives on in this guy's music. If there is one thing Randy Thompson and his superb band can do is rock the house down. There are some fine originals here..This is a cracking album.” *Country Music People Magazine-Simon Aston*

Whoa, this one kicks into high gear right from the opening chords! Here and in Europe, he's been noted as a "touring powerhouse" and "compelling performer". No argument from me on that. *Collected*, though, contains a good deal more than hi-energy country folk rock, as Randy knows his way around a ballad as well. There's a bit of John Fogerty to Thompson. He has the same power, guts, straightforwardness, and roots-rock composing head while easing back on Fogerty's unique intensity. There's also some Jesse Colin Young in the folkier aspects, but with a much heavier backroads twang as well as a throatier and firmer singing voice, with the son-of-the-sod factor more a Hoyt Axton or John Prine. *FAME-Folk and Acoustic Music Exchange-Mark S. Tucker*

**Top 10 Album Of 2012** Randy Thompson, *Collected* – If not my personal favorite record this year (and that's a big if), certainly the one that I've gone back to most consistently. While it has the distinct advantage of being one of the earliest to come through my mail slot in 2012, there were a host of others that came in early and haven't gotten near the airplay this one does. Crunchy, emphatic guitars wrapped around as compelling a vocal as I can recall. Masterfully written songs, masterfully delivered. *Collected* is a pro's record, but it's also one of those albums that gets you down deep on a visceral level and latches on to stay. Thompson's take on Utah Phillips' “Rock Salt and Nails” leaves an indelible mark, but the originals here are even more powerful. The rare record that works every bit as well at sunrise as it does as sunset, albeit for different reasons. Here there be art, boys and girls. Genuinely great art. [Dave Pilot - Outlaw Magazine](#)