

Ray Scott Bio

The digital music revolution has turned out to be a “Rayincarnation” for acclaimed country storyteller Ray Scott. While a label-free utopia where artistic merit trumps popular whims remains as unlikely as it always was, the internet age has allowed a certain kind of creator to connect with an audience and chart a self-determined course... when helps explain why Ray Scott has chosen to title his fifth studio album, *Guitar For Sale*.

“This is sort of a regroup for me – not only artistically, but in terms of my career,” he says. “My music and my sense of where it fits in the music business has really taken shape over the past several years. So this is an introduction to that for people who may not be familiar with me, and it’s a defining of that vision for those who already know my music.”

For many, *Ray Scott* needs no introduction. Warner Bros. released Scott’s debut album *My Kind Of Music* in 2005 to enormous critical acclaim. The first single and title track cracked the top 40, but a combination of label politics and radio’s reluctance to embrace his fresh approach to country traditions had him off the label less than two years later. But a funny thing happened on the way to post-label obscurity – a level of success many major labels might envy.

Crazy Like Me (2008) was put together to have a project to sell on the road, but ended up getting strong critical reaction and surprising sales. Encouraged, Ray connected with producer Dave Brainard (Jerrod Niemann, Brandy Clark) to record *Royalty* (2011). The single “Those Jeans” received substantial airplay on SiriusXM and went on to sell a couple hundred thousand copies. “I kept writing and still had a pile of songs we didn’t get to on *Royalty*,” he says. “So we decided to amp things up and make a record exactly the way we wanted.”

As a result, *Ray Scott* was the most descriptive name possible for the collection. It’s country music the way I interpret it,” he says. “Every artist borrows and basically bastardizes whatever they grew up loving. In my case, it was a combination of a lot of great ‘70s country. My dad was a great singer and I used to hear him do all that stuff.”

“The good news is the kind of music I’m making now is not age-specific. I’m not out there wiggling my ass for anybody, so it’s about telling stories, making people smile and making them feel something,” says Scott.

“I understand that sometimes the business has a place for what I do and sometimes it doesn’t,” Ray says. “But what I do has kept me alive out there in the world because it is different enough that people get passionate about it. They stick with it. I don’t sound like anybody else, and I don’t want to.”

For his new project, *Guitar For Sale*, Ray decided to change up producers. “I went with my extremely talented friend, Michael Hughes. I’ve always pushed it in different directions here and there stylistically, but the lyrics and the voice keep the common thread running through it... Same this time as well,” says Scott.

“I went back a few years and recorded a handful of favorites I’ve had in my back pocket, as well as a few newer ones I loved. We live tracked this one... haven’t done that in a few years. It brought back a new energy, with a few new musicians, including the guys in my touring band. It’s a different sound, but familiar too. It was a step in a good direction,” says Ray about *Guitar For Sale*.