

Album: *Ain't Through Honky Tonkin' Yet*

**Artist: Brennen Leigh**

The remarkable aspect of Brennen Leigh's *Ain't Through Honky Tonkin' Yet* is the nostalgic familiarity that the vintage-leaning collection exudes upon initial listen — an uncanny sense that these songs have existed for decades and have already been covered by a wide ranging stack of fellow artists. All of which is a credit to Leigh's approach in classic-leaning lyricism and production selections that are grounded in an assured sense of space and time. Each song successfully compliments and bleeds into the next, creating a cohesive curated Honky Tonk jukebox. All of which ensure that there is something for every Country music listener here.

The begging for a swing partner "Running out of Hope, Arkansas" and slow dance worthy "Somebody's Drinkin' About You" get the party started. The title track and "Mississippi Rendezvous" provide stellar vocal showcases for Leigh's saccharine-etched instrument, whereas truck stop honoring "Carole With An E" finds her exploring more comical leaning approaches with pronunciation as she shares the story of one of the highway's best. "The Bar Should Say Thanks" is singalong ready and bound to be a Leigh standard request at live shows, but "Every Time I Do" is what provides the beating heart of the collection. Leigh devours the gorgeous melody with aching present regret — regret she brings to the accepting but hopeful "When Lonely Came to Town."

With 2020's *Prairie Love Letter* and 2022's *Obsessed with the West*, Leigh earned acclaim for fully investing herself with honoring her Midwest upbringing and Western Swing music respectively. Now with the superb *Ain't Through Honky Tonkin' Yet* she has chosen to honor traditional Country music with a collection that cements itself within the golden era of the genre but still successfully maintains a modern edge. With talent this pure and committed, there is no telling what Leigh will choose to explore next.