



Jimmie Dale Gilmore “**Don’t Look For A Heartache**” Hightone Records

This compilation features half a dozen tracks from Jimmie’s, Joe Ely aka Little Johnny Fader produced, solo debut “**Fair And Square**” [1998] and eight tracks from the recorded in Nashville 1989 self-titled, Lloyd Maines/Bruce Bromberg produced, follow-up. This fifteen song *re-collection* is rounded off by a previously unreleased version of “Ramblin’ Man.” Well, when I say *previously unreleased*, I don’t mean *previously unrecorded* as this Butch Hancock composition turned up as a duet on the pair’s 1990 Antipodean aural adventure “**Two Roads – Live In Australia.**”

In the UK the original Hightone recordings were leased by the now dormant Demon Record label, which was owned by Elvis Costello and his former manager, Jake Riviera. When the ten-track “**Jimmie Dale Gilmore**” appeared on CD in the UK, the disc also included the ten songs that constituted “**Fair And Square.**” A decade and a half on from those now *out-of-print* original releases, it’s good to see this retrospective appear in Hightone’s catalogue.

As for the material featured, the collection opens with a high lonesome reading of Townes Van Zandt’s “White Freight Liner Blues,” which gave Jimmie Dale a # 72 Country Single in August 1988. “Fair And Square” was penned by one-time Gilmore sideman, David Halley, and this collection features another of the stunning gems in Halley’s oeuvre, “Rain Just Falls.” The latter song testifies how the human race deals with the setbacks life throws at us. Halley cut two classic Texas folk/country albums during the early nineties and has a 2003 album that remains unreleased. The only other cover song here, that doesn’t source from the Lubbock, Texas bred triumvirate of Gilmore, Hancock and Ely, is the Mel Tillis and A. R. “Buck” Peddy collaboration, “Honky Tonk Song” which originally opened Gilmore’s self-titled sophomore disc. The song gave Webb Pierce a # 1 Country Single in early 1957. For Gilmore, when it was issued as a single, it peaked at # 85 on the Country Chart.

Of the remaining ten cuts on “**Don’t Look For A Heartache,**” the song of the same name, along with “Beautiful Rose,” “Deep Eddy Blues” which recently resurfaced on The Flatlanders latest musical statement “**Wheels Of Fortune**” [albeit with a lead vocal by Butch Hancock], plus the ageless “Dallas” were penned by Gilmore. The latter is one of Jimmie Dale’s most lustrous creations, and one of the finest folk/country songs ever written by a Texan about Texas. Ely’s only compositional contribution is “Honky Tonk Masquerade,” also the title of Joe’s 1978 sophomore solo album. The remaining cuts are a mix of Hancock originals and co-writes with Gilmore. The enigmatically titled “Just A Wave, Not The Water,” “When The Nights Are Cold” and the hard rockin’ “Red Chevrolet” constitute the former category. “That Hardwood Floor” and “See The Way,” constitute the latter. In fact in my recent review of “**Wheels Of Fortune**” I pegged “See The Way” as a new song and no one countered my contention, so lets say I’ve just squared the circle here.

Gilmore possesses one country’s classic voices, and he’s supported here on “**Don’t Look For A Heartache**” by a coterie of Austin’s and Nashville’s finest pickers. His subsequent quartet of solo albums would see him blossom as a composer of *zen country lyrics*, while continuing to cover tunes by others including his long time Lubbock buddies.

Folkwax Rating 7 out of 10

Arthur Wood  
Kerrville Kronikles 02/04