

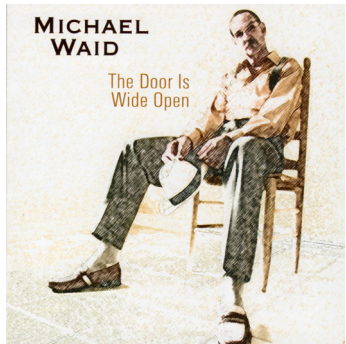


**“Patience”**  
**THESE FINE MOMENTS**  
**Independent Release**  
**Produced, Mixed & Mastered by Mark Hallman**  
**Review by Greg Forest**

Two long time Austin writer/performers Hillary Kaufmann and Robert Watts teamed up in 2010 to form These Fine Moments - focusing their talents on radio-ready original tunes. Both have experience in previous Austin bands, Hillary was a member of the Cosmic Dust Devils v1.0 The CD, entirely of songs written by Kaufmann and Watts, has

more than a few things to say about life and love. My favorite song is, “Hearing Voices,” a snappy tune about the voices that can whisper in the thoughts of us all. In a close second is the title song, “Patience,” which weighs the truth in the old adage that patience is a virtue. Produced by Mark Hallman, an Austin A-Team producer for decades has brought his magic to this recording with him, playing a number of instruments and handling the mixing and mastering processes too, making this a cohesive story telling project start to finish.

The CD is due for release on September 1st with a release party in Austin at the One 2 One Bar 1509 (S. Lamar) on September 6th. Hillary & Robert have penned songs worthy of your ears. “These Fine Moments” may be more accurately titled, “These Fine Tunes.”



**“The Door Is Wide Open”**  
**MICHAEL WAID**  
**Independent Release**  
**Produced by Michael Waid**  
**Review by Jack Armstrong**

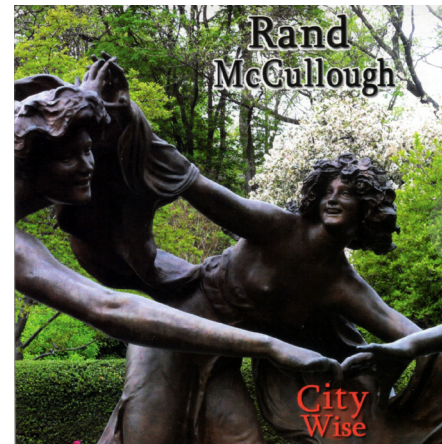
This CD appeared in stack of submissions we received this spring and at first listen, I found it hard to pin down how to describe it. Is it Americana, Singer-Songwriter, or straight on Pop? The short answer is all of ‘em. Waid has drawn from a wide range of musical genres that have you traveling from country flavoring, a swing by zydeco and swing with

a good touch of roadhouse boogie-woogie with a pinch of rockabilly thrown in. It is obvious that Waid’s style was influenced by a very wide variety of artists and I would wager his car radio presets are all over the musical map.

The standout songs for me were, “Memories Don’t Fade Away,” a poignant ballad about the past that haunt our memories, the title track, “The Door Is Wide Open” which makes the process of a romantic breakup a cut-and-dry process and the up-tempo “Same Old Thing (Different Day).”

Waid wore the producer’s hat on this project and played a number of instruments with the help of some of Texas’ best session player with legends like Ron Knuth, Bobby Flores, and Jerry Blanton in tow. Sonically, I would have to rate the CD at the exceptional level. In the liner notes Michael that in some good way these songs touch and enrich your life. Mission accomplished.

If you are looking for a great CD to take you on a wide musical and thematic trip across the highways and byways of Texas Music, you’ll find what you are looking for in this CD.



**“City Wise”**  
**RAND MCCULLOUGH**  
**Wooden Fish**  
**Produced in Austin and New York**  
**by Rand McCullough**  
**Review by Greg Forest**

Rand McCullough has been one of my Austin songwriter heroes for decades so be warned, this reviewer is a long time fan and may be prone to bias. But I have always had a leaning toward great songwriting and delivery.

One of the great things about both Rand’s writing and production is that what you get is what evolved of from his own talents exclusively. From his mind to the CD lacquer, the song remains the same. A master engineer, arranger and musician, he doesn’t have the need of outside help to deliver exactly what he wants to say and its performance delivery.

With his new release, “City Wise” Rand has continued to expand his CD catalog. The title song reflects the year Rand recently spent on a hiatus from Texas in New York City and environs. Turns out he is a Texan at heart.

Rand is the writer or co-writer on all the tracks and collaborated with Jen Adams and James Montgomery on this outing.

For me, there are a few songs that really stand out. Rand is a rocker and *Tunnels of Tears* fits the pop rock certainly fits the bill. Right behind it is *Mirage* a self-reflective song

about the self serving context we all view the world with through our rose colored glasses. We are only what we think we are.

McCullough has been joined by some of his A-Team friends, drummers Kevin Hall, Phil Bass and Buster Lewis, Marty Muse on steel guitar, Bradley Kopp on guitars and his wife Barbara has kicked in on a number of the background vocals.

Rand has been performing across the Austin and Hill Country area with his group The Red Buds with other Austin notables Bob Rose and Bill Starrett - well known writers in their own right. Keep your eyes out for the Red Buds in your area.

Here are a couple more of Rand McCullough’s catalog that are also highly recommended listening.

