

# JOURNAL REGISTER

## Radney Foster This World We Live In (Dualtone)

People may be familiar with songs written by Radney Foster that were recorded by country superstars like Keith Urban (“Raining on Sunday”), Sara Evans (“A Real Fine Place to Start”), and the Dixie Chicks (“Godspeed”). Foster has built a career on reliably delivering soaring melodies, memorable hooks, infectious grooves, and passionate and timely lyrics. On *This World We Live In*, his sixth solo release, he affirms his legacy and in fact bumps up his strengths a few notches with his most penetrating batch of original songs yet.

Backed by veteran rock & roll studio musicians Waddy Wachtel, Charly Drayton & Bob Glaub, their sturdy rhythms powering “Kindness of Strangers” prove perfect for his poignant studies of common folk doing good deeds. Never too far from rock in anything he does, Foster kicks out the jams on “Prove Me Right,” a ferocious, rowdy roadhouse rocker. Sarah Buxton, Emily West, and Kim Richey all pitch in with tender, bracing vocals, and the song ends up feeling like the soothing balm it surely was meant to be. On the closing track, “Never Gonna Fly,” Foster continues his habit of ending his CD with a thoughtful track that stays with the listener long after the music has ended. It’s a touching, uplifting song that perfectly ends a great collection of songs.

--Sean Hickey