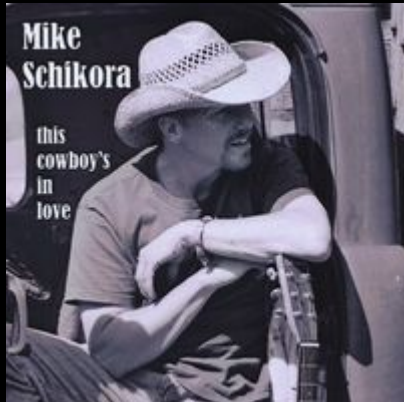


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MIKE SCHIKORA
This Cowboy's In Love
Front Range Records

Mike Schikora introduced us to his brand of cowboy-flavored country music with his debut album *What's Old Is New Again*. The true to life cowboy/rancher that calls Colorado home, embodied the spirit of "true country music." With his sophomore effort, *This Cowboy's In Love*, we see him continue on down that same path, but also get to see Schikora exploring a couple of different avenues than we originally heard from him. Songs like the album's title track and lead single, "This Cowboy's In Love" showcase the traditional cowboy country elements that we've come to expect, as do tracks like soon to be barroom favorites "Come Closing Time" and "Pour Me Back Down." However, it is when he offers something a little different than what's expected that this album truly shines. Songs like "Hard To Hold" transport you to a dusty nightclub when a jazzy type piano pulls you through the song, or on track like "Be Good To Me" we see him lean heavy on the guitar riff that offers up a bluesy like Clapton vibe. This album easily goes above and beyond his debut and showcases what Mike Schikora can bring to the table. His versatility as a vocalist and songsmith is presented more often than not throughout this album as he blends together various genres to make a coherent sound that can only be classified as Mike Schikora. There is no sophomore slump here, but rather solid music that's full of risks that pay off throughout the album as they add depth and character to Mike Schikora's music as a whole.