

## Brent Mitchell Bio

Brent Mitchell's third album *Brent Mitchell* catches the rain, wind, and fire of American life, past and present, in a variety of beautifully crafted songs. His characters can be at the point of no return or the point of an unexpected ecstasy all within the same song. His understanding of human character as enigma is uncanny.

It would be hard to describe this album adequately without understanding who Brent Mitchell is. He is that rare breed of tough Texan and sophisticated poet/songwriter who transcends his roots to evoke a variety of musical style and hard-edged themes that leave you feeling "the blues" and deep elation at the same time.

Growing up in Texas, Brent had the normal amount of fist fights that most boys have which is more than the fingers on both hands. He learned the lessons of a rough and Spartan life working on a ranch for five years. On this hard scrabble land, his fists hardened and strengthened like the barbed wire he strung across the vast Texas prairie. His songs reflect this raw, lean strength.

But his mind was fed by the poetic skills of his father who was a literature professor and poet. His dad, a music lover, dragged him to almost every blues, country, and jazz honky tonk in North Texas. The rhythms and emotions of the music fired Brent's imagination and started his singing and song writing journey.

Later while singing in Kerrville, Texas, Brent's powerful, full voice was noticed by members of the legendary Peter, Paul, and Mary who encouraged him to turn professional. He did so and produced two albums from Nashville.

*Brent Mitchell* offers a variety of songs in the folk, country, and blues vein. His songs evoke powerful images of love, beauty, desolation, and redemption. He catches people in their most vulnerable moments and in their most spiritual moments. He catches life's ironies in his lean, tough poetical phrases.

*Brent Mitchell* contains a couple of blues gems in "The Wind" and "Everclear." The wind is a symbolic voice containing some universal wisdom. Forget about "scotch and soda and a jigger of gin"; Everclear will get you there much faster and is the poor man's answer for clear perception.

"Blackbirds Hangin' From The Noonday Sun" is a love song and shows Brent's mastery of poetical imagery and elative tone. This is truly a literary gem, absolutely exquisite writing.

"Prodigal Son" is an ironical masterpiece about a lonely guy paying \$50 for a prostitute, buying a fifth of Jack Daniels, then discovering spiritual redemption and a lost home on a lonely road crowned by a mysterious star. The religious overtones of the chorus add to the irony of the tale. Despite the plight of the character the song is a thing of beauty.

"Trust" is another master of irony about a guy who betrays his wife and learns what trust means as he lays dying from a gunshot wound to the head. The rolling, rocking rhythm adds to the sense of fast approaching, inevitable doom of the protagonist.

"High John De Conquer" Part I & II, and "The Well" are based on folk tales. John De Conquer springs from slave lore of the "slave as hero" theme. "The Well" was based on an old but true account of a chilling story about a man left to die by a group of kids and the effects of guilt many years later. . The fast pace echoes the sense of urgency that follows the children all days of their lives.

Other outstanding songs are "Cemetery Angels" a macabre tale about sleeping in cemeteries out of necessity. Somehow the human spirit will find beauty in the least likely of places. "Boy And Dog" a lesson of the value of home, and "December, Texas" a ghost town fading into the past of a forgotten time.

The bottom line is that any professor of literature or lover of American western music would be proud of this album. As would any sophisticated lover of original music.