

= Rodney Atkins =

Rodney Allan Atkins (born March 28 , 1969) is an American country music artist . Signed to Curb Records in 1996 , he charted his first single on the Billboard country chart in 1997 , but did not release an album until 2003 's *Honesty* , which included the number 4 hit " *Honesty (Write Me a List)* " .

If You 're Going Through Hell , his second album , was released in 2006 . Its first two singles , " If You 're Going Through Hell (Before the Devil Even Knows) " and " *Watching You* " , each spent four weeks at the top of the country music chart , and were respectively ranked as the top country songs of 2006 and 2007 according to Billboard Year @-@ End . The album , which has since been certified platinum in the United States , produced two more number 1 singles in " *These Are My People* " and " *Cleaning This Gun (Come On In Boy)* " . It 's *America* (2009) included the number 1 single " *It 's America* " and the top 5 hit " *Farmer 's Daughter* " , which was added to a later reissue of the album . *Take a Back Road* (2011) produced his sixth number 1 in its title track . Atkins has received six nominations from the Academy of Country Music and two from the Country Music Association , winning Top New Male Vocalist from the former in 2006 .

= = Biography = =

Rodney Atkins was born in Knoxville , Tennessee . His biological mother , who was 19 at the time , became pregnant with him after a " traumatic first date " . She hid the pregnancy from her parents and put him up for adoption at the Holston United Methodist Home for Children in Greeneville , Tennessee . His first adoptive parents , Charles Hutchins and Linda Weems , returned him to the home after he developed a major respiratory infection . Allan and Margaret Atkins , who had lost a newborn about a year prior , inquired after the child , but decided not to proceed due to surgery that Margaret had just undergone . Meanwhile , another couple adopted him , but also returned him soon after when he developed colic . After Margaret Atkins recovered , she proceeded to adopt him . Atkins did not meet his biological mother until 2008 , and has never revealed her identity .

The Atkins family moved frequently in his youth , eventually settling in Claiborne County , Tennessee . He attended high school at Powell Valley High in Speedwell , Tennessee . During high school , Atkins played guitar in his spare time at events and festivals . He went to college at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville , Tennessee , where he made friends with songwriters and soon began writing himself . In the mid @-@ 1990s , Atkins moved to Nashville , Tennessee to pursue a recording career . He signed with Curb Records in 1996 , the same week that LeAnn Rimes did .

= = Musical career = =

= = = Rodney Atkins = = =

Atkins 's debut single , " *In a Heartbeat* " , spent one week at number 74 on the Billboard Hot Country Singles & Tracks (now Hot Country Songs) chart dated for August 30 , 1997 . Its b @-@ side , " *God Only Knows* " , was also released as a single , but did not chart . His debut album was slated for release on September 17 of the same year , but it was never released due to Atkins ' dissatisfaction with his material . He discussed his dissatisfaction while sitting next to Curb Records owner Mike Curb on an airplane ; Curb allowed him to switch producers , and Atkins chose Ted Hewitt , with whom he had been working on demos . Hewitt also changed Atkins ' style from a cowboy appearance and a vocal style similar to Roy Orbison to a more polished appearance . Atkins , Hewitt , and Max T. Barnes wrote the track " *Don 't Think I Won 't* " on Mark Wills ' 1998 album *Wish You Were Here* , but he was otherwise inactive until 2002 . " *In a Heartbeat* " later appeared on the soundtrack of the 2008 film *Camille* .

== = Honesty = = =

In mid @-@ 2002 , Rodney Atkins released his third single , " Sing Along " . Both it and its followup , " My Old Man " , peaked in the lower regions of the Top 40 on the country chart . He entered the Top 10 for the first time in late 2003 @-@ early 2004 with " Honesty (Write Me a List) " , which went on to peak at number 4 on the country charts and 57 on the Billboard Hot 100 . The song was the title track to his album Honesty , which was released by the end of 2003 . " Someone to Share It With " and " Monkey in the Middle " were also issued as singles , with the former peaking at number 41 on the country charts . Atkins told the Associated Press that he chose to record " Honesty " because he and producer Ted Hewitt wanted a twelfth song for the album , and co @-@ writer David Kent had recommended it to Hewitt .

Jeffrey B. Remz of Country Standard Time gave the album a mixed review . He thought that Atkins seemed too similar in sound to labelmate Tim McGraw , but praised some of the songs for having strong melodies . A more favorable review came from Matt Bjorke of About.com , who called it a " confident debut from a talented newcomer . "

== = If You 're Going Through Hell = = =

Having been absent from the country music charts for most of 2004 and 2005 , he returned in 2006 with a single entitled " If You 're Going Through Hell (Before the Devil Even Knows) " , which served as the lead @-@ off to his second released album , If You 're Going Through Hell . With this album , Atkins once again changed his musical image . He started wearing baseball caps and performing " songs about his life . " " If You 're Going Through Hell " became his first number 1 , spending four weeks at the top of the Hot Country Songs charts ; it was also the top country hit of 2006 according to Billboard Year @-@ End .

Following " If You 're Going Through Hell " was " Watching You " , which Atkins wrote with Steve Dean and Brian Gene White . This song was inspired by Atkins ' son , Elijah , who also stars in its music video . " Watching You " was also a four @-@ week number 1 hit , and the top country song of 2007 on the Billboard Year @-@ End charts . " These Are My People " and " Cleaning This Gun (Come On In Boy) " also went to number 1 , making If You 're Going Through Hell the first country album to include four number 1 singles since Tim McGraw 's 2001 album Set This Circus Down . The album 's final single was " Invisibly Shaken " , which Lee Greenwood previously recorded on his 2003 album Stronger Than Time . Atkins ' version of the song peaked at number 41 . If You 're Going Through Hell received a platinum certification from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for shipments of one million copies , while " If You 're Going Through Hell " , " Watching You " , and " Cleaning This Gun " all received gold certifications for 500 @, @ 000 music downloads . These songs also made top 40 on the Hot 100 while they were climbing the country charts , while " These Are My People " reached number 42 . Atkins also received the 2006 Academy of Country Music award for Top New Male Vocalist , and " If You 're Going Through Hell " was nominated for Song of the Year . Atkins toured in late 2007 @-@ early 2008 as an opening act on Brad Paisley 's Bonfires & Amplifiers Tour .

J. Poet of Allmusic gave the album a positive review , praising the " less produced sound " and Atkins ' vocals on the singles . A mixed review came from Country Standard Time , whose Robert Loy criticized Atkins for singing " about what a good ol ' boy he is " on several songs , but adding that " it 's fairly obvious he 's at least as country as anybody else on the charts these days " .

== = It 's America = = =

Atkins ' thirteenth single , " It 's America " , was released in November 2008 . It was the first single from his third album , It 's America , released in March 2009 . Atkins promoted the album through appearances on Larry King Live and a pre @-@ sale promotion on his website . On the chart dated May 2 , 2009 , " It 's America " became his fifth number 1 hit . Its followup , " 15 Minutes " , was released in May 2009 and peaked at number 20 in September . Atkins re @-@ wrote the album 's

third single , " Chasin ' Girls " , for his wife to make it more applicable to their life at the time . After executives at Curb saw the lyrics , the re @-@ written version was released as the album 's third single , but did not make top 40 . " Farmer 's Daughter " followed in early 2010 , and after it reached top 5 late in the year , Curb added it and the re @-@ recording of " Chasin ' Girls " to a re @-@ issue of It 's America . The label also re @-@ released If You 're Going Through Hell for exclusive sale at Cracker Barrel restaurants , with " Farmer 's Daughter " and the previously @-@ unreleased song " More Like Your Memory (Always Takes Me Back) " added to the track listing .

It 's America received mixed reviews . Todd Sterling of Allmusic and Liz Jungers of Roughstock both criticized it for lacking musical variety . It was more favorably reviewed at Country Standard Time , with critic Jeff Lincoln criticizing the title track as " forced " but saying that otherwise , " Atkins has found his niche of singing about the southern tribe . "

= = = Take a Back Road = = =

" Take a Back Road " , the lead @-@ off single and title track to his fourth album Take a Back Road , was released in April 2011 . It became his sixth number 1 late in the year , and accounted for his highest placement on the Hot 100 , at number 23 . The song was co @-@ written by Luke Laird and Rhett Akins , the latter of whom co @-@ wrote " Farmer 's Daughter " . " He 's Mine " was the album 's second single . The song was originally recorded by Billy Ray Cyrus , and Atkins chose to release it because it received positive reactions from fans in concert . It peaked at number 23 on the country chart in April 2012 . " Just Wanna Rock N ' Roll " , the album 's third single , peaked at number 31 on the Country Airplay chart in late 2012 .

Country Standard Time called Atkins " the type of wholesome country musician that you would enjoy hanging out with on a Sunday afternoon with your wife and kids . " It received a " B " from Entertainment Weekly , whose Mikael Wood wrote that Atkins " makes for a first @-@ rate correspondent from Anytown , USA . "

= = = Greatest Hits = = =

In September 2013 , Atkins released the single " Doin ' It Right " , which peaked at 53 on the Country Airplay chart . It was followed in October 2014 by " Eat Sleep Love You Repeat " , which was co @-@ written by Walker Hayes and Ryan Bizarri . The latter song appears on Atkins ' Greatest Hits compilation , released in February 2015 . This album also includes ten of his previous singles , plus the album cut " About the South " from If You 're Going Through Hell .

= = Family and personal life = =

He married Tammy Jo McDonald in 1998 , and the two had a son named Elijah . He also had two stepdaughters , Lindsey and Morgan , from McDonald 's previous marriage .

Atkins was arrested in November 2011 for allegedly trying to smother his wife with a pillow , while his 10 @-@ year @-@ old son watched . He was released on \$ 2 @,@ 500 bail three hours after the arrest , and was ordered by the Williamson County , Tennessee court to take an anger assessment which found no need for any further action . The altercation was disputed by Atkins ' lawyer , who stated that it was purely verbal . Atkins filed for divorce within 24 hours of the alleged assault . The divorce was settled in late @-@ September 2012 . In February 2012 , Atkins was cleared of the domestic assault charge .

In June 2013 , Atkins became engaged to singer Rose Falcon . The couple married on November 10 , 2013 .

= = Awards and nominations = =

= = Discography = =

Studio albums

Honesty (2003)

If You 're Going Through Hell (2006)

It 's America (2009)

Take a Back Road (2011)

TBA (2016)

Compilation Albums

Greatest Hits (2015)

Number @-@ one singles

" If You 're Going Through Hell (Before the Devil Even Knows) " (2006)

" Watching You " (2007)

" These Are My People " (2007)

" Cleaning This Gun (Come On In Boy) " (2008)

" It 's America " (2009)

" Take a Back Road " (2011)