

# The Washington Post

## REVIVAL

### Radney Foster

Keith Urban, Sara Evans and the Dixie Chicks have all recorded his hook-friendly country music with great success, but Radney Foster himself hadn't cut an album since 2006. The Texan, who saw commercial success in the '80s as a member of Foster & Lloyd, and on his own in the '90s, is back, and this time it's personal.

The self-released "Revival" is more introspective than Foster's previous work, as he's spent the past few years grappling with personal struggles. Of special note is the poignant tribute to his father, "I Know You Can Hear Me" (the album is also dedicated to his memory). But this is a record for Sunday morning and Saturday night; for every moment of pensive reflection, there's an equal dose of rafter-rattling roots rock.

Accompanied by his road band the Confessions, Foster also gets help from an A-list roster of guests, including Dierks Bentley on the carpe diem anthem "Until It's Gone." Bluegrassers Jon Randall and Tammy Rogers join Foster on the acoustic closing track "A Little Revival (Reprise)," and Darius Rucker lends rich harmony vocals to "Angel Flight," a moving ballad about military pilots who transport their fallen comrades home.

Despite its title, "Revival" isn't a purely religious album: When it comes down to it, Foster is preaching the gospel of love, forgiveness and a little rock-and-roll. As he sings, "I've prayed with sinners and I've drunk with saints/I'm not sure who God is, but I'm sure who He ain't." Amen.

-- Juli Thanki

DOWNLOAD THESE: "A Little Revival," "Angel Flight," "Life Is Hard (Love Is Easy)"