

Mp3 Rodney Branigan - Live Across America

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Progressive Folk Fusion 10 MP3 Songs FOLK: like Ani, ROCK: Acoustic Details: Rodney Branigan "Live Across America," the title of Rodney Branigan's new CD, is no exaggeration. The album, which hits stores today, is culled from live shows across the continental United States. "I had an engineer from Reno (Nev.) follow me around the country with his recording equipment and his RV. ... We did the whole United States in two months, then just took the best out of that and made an album out of it," Branigan said. That approach resulted in more than 90 hours of recordings. "It was ridiculous," Branigan laughed, "but it worked out. We ended up producing a good album." Making a live album makes sense for a touring madman like the 28-year-old Branigan. The Amarillo native has spent the past five years criss-crossing the country with wife Erin and dog Asta, coming home for only a couple of days at a time. His brand of Americana-tinged progressive folk music and his trademark two-guitar playing abilities are drawing fans across the country. "There are certain cities we've started make headway in. San Diego has been good for us this year. We just did a show in Reno in one of the casinos that was really packed. ... And Belleville, Ill., of all places, on the other side of the river from St. Louis. "For some reason, we draw 300 people every time we're there, and it's a town of 40,000. The band Uncle Tupelo came out of there, so they're really stoked on music," Branigan said. The nearly nonstop touring has, inevitably, led to changes for the singer, making his last album, 2001's "Broken Guitars," now sound out-of-date. "I think I've done between 175 and 185 shows a year for the past four years. From that constant singing, my voice has gotten a lot stronger," Branigan said. As has his songwriting, he said. "It's just a more grown-up version of me, I guess. I'm writing about issues now that can affect everybody," Branigan said. "I'm getting better about writing about things that aren't controversial, necessarily, but potentially could be controversial. But I write about them ambiguously enough that you can look at them from both sides. "That's too complicated," he joked. "You should just put that I'm writing rap music now."

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