



Design by Christopher Kornmann at Spit + Image
Album art: *Particles #13* by Jeremy Szopinski

FOLKSINGER TRACKS

1. Folksinger 3:09
2. STP 2:28
3. Size of Diamonds 3:41 *
4. Once Upon a Time 2:42
5. Narcissus 2:55
6. Play Side B 3:33 *
7. Bike Ride to your Heart 2:26
8. Cruel Spring 3:29 *
9. Until the End 3:11
10. Weary Traveler 3:48

* suggested tracks 3, 6, 8
+ all songs FCC Clean.

All songs written by Erik Brandt, © 2025 Erik Brandt Music
Produced by AJ Scheiber and Erik Brandt
Recorded and mixed by Peter Rasmussen with additional recording by Luke Jacobs, Peter Karman, Tibor Kiss, and Chris Stromquist.
Mastered by Greg Reierson

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★ ERIK ★ BRANDT

of The Urban Hillbilly Quartet



Saint Paul, MN—[Erik Brandt](#), a Twin Cities-based multi-instrumentalist and singer known for his work as the frontman for The Urban Hillbilly Quartet (UHQ) will release his fourth solo album, *Folksinger*, on February 27. Since 1995, Brandt and UHQ have released eleven albums and toured most of the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. For **Folksinger** (UHQ Recordings, 2025), he enlisted the help of AJ Scheiber (Wilkinson James) to produce and shepherd the recording project.

The result is Brandt's most cohesive and fully realized work to date from a veteran songwriter. The ten tracks cover a wide swath of music—from country to rock to ska to jazz and folk—but share a unifying thematic connection. Many musicians came together to make this album possible -- in particular, the contributions of the UHQ's Jeremy Szopinski (electric baritone guitar) and Dave Strahan (drums, pedal steel, electric guitar), along with AJ Scheiber (bass, pedal steel, guitar), percussion parts by Chris Stromquist (NYC based touring drummer), woodwinds by Paul Fonfara (The Brass Messengers, DeVotchKa), and harmonies from a cast of friends, including Luke Jacobs & Carrie Rodriguez, Doug Trail-Johnson (House of Mercy Band), and Ági Mohácsy (Hungary).

Brandt's many musical influences shine on this solo recording. The title track "Folksinger" merges heartfelt lyrics with pedal steel and electric baritone guitar. "Size of Diamonds" and "Cruel Spring" create vivid images of troubled protagonists set to REM-esque rock and Mavericks-like ska, respectively. The swinging sax, clarinet, and accordion of "Play Side B" tell the joyful story of someone learning to celebrate life post-50. "Bike Ride to your Heart" is a song Brandt originally started in the mid-90s that took until now to finally arrive at its destination with Beach Boys-like harmonies and grooving percussion. "Weary Traveler," with lush acoustic guitar and piano, and the mesmerizing harmony vocals of Hungarian singer Ági Mohácsy, brings the album to a close by commemorating Erik's friends, Soren and Jim Kasperson.

With The UHQ and on his own, Brandt has performed at venues from California to New York City, and from pubs in Great Britain to clubs in Australia. In Minnesota, he has appeared at clubs, theaters and premier events. The UHQ has released nine albums, picking up a Minnesota Music Award (and several nominations), as well as many glowing reviews along the way.

FOLKSINGER Album Release Concert:

Friday 27 February 2026 – Celtic Junction Arts Center
836 Prior Ave N / St. Paul, MN 55104 / 612-722-7000
<https://celticjunction.org/>

7:00. \$20 – price includes a copy of the album. Under 18 free! All-ages.

Opening act: Pick, Buttons & Bow