

## MARK CHESNUTT

by Tamela Meredith Partridge  
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After 18 years in the country music industry, Mark Chesnutt knows that sometimes it's better to keep "Rollin' With The Flow."

"Rollin' With The Flow is the title track and first single released from my new album," Chesnutt says of the. "We were in the studio recording the first five tracks; we wrapped those up and had time to do one more. "Rollin' With The Flow" has been pitched to me to record on the last three CD's. This time, I had room for it. This is the very first time I ever sang the song—in the studio. It's funny, because when I sang it, it was like a light bulb turned on. I think I grew into this song; it's somewhat about my life."



Chesnutt will perform at The Little Nashville Opry on Saturday, July 5, at 8 p.m.

"We like to sing great songs, entertain, and have a good time on stage," Chesnutt says. "It's also a great feeling to reach a career milestone of being able to fill an entire show with my own hits."

Rollin' With The Flow, written by songwriter Jerry Hayes, was originally a #1 country single for Charlie Rich in '77.

"When covering a classic, you really have to feel the song in order to make it your own," Chesnutt says, "Once I was able to catch the idea behind the song, the hook, it just seemed to come out natural."

Chesnutt first rekindled the fire and passion of country music with his '90 Billboard Top Five debut single, "Too Cold At Home." His unflinching honesty and extraordinary emotional range have provided the charismatic entertainer with eight #1 Billboard country singles including, "Brother Jukebox," "It's A Little Too Late," "Almost Goodbye," "Sure Is Monday," and "I Don't Want To Miss A Thing."

"I just try to find the best songs that I can and sing them the best that I can," Chesnutt says. "I don't think there's any style to that. I've been called everything from a Cajun to a traditionalist, a crooner to a rocker. It's all just music to me. If it's good, it's good. If it's not, you'll soon find out."

Chesnutt's new album, released on June 24th, is his first project recorded with independent label, Lofton Creek Records, in Nashville.

"I worked on this CD for two years," Chesnutt says. "It wasn't like the old days, when I had to 'crank out the music to get it on the shelves.' We had a lot of time to find just the right songs. I really enjoyed the process of picking out the songs that I felt were real to me -- that reflected my life experiences and where I'm at in my life now. I'm a country singer. I'm a husband and a dad. (Waylon's 13, Cassie's 11 and Cameron's 9). I'm a family man. Rollin' With The Flow is a reflection of my past, how I got here and right where I'm at...now."

Chesnutt wrote or co-wrote two out of twelve songs for the new album, including "Long Way To Go" (about leaving his home in Beaumont, Texas to go on the road), and "Man In The Mirror" (about looking in the mirror and seeing his dad, Bob Chesnutt). The project also includes a Keith Whitley penned tune, "She Never Got Me Over You," which was co-written with Dean Dillon and Hank Cochran the week before Whitley's death.

"According to Cochran, the song was supposed to be on the next cd Whitley was to record," Chesnutt says. "After Whitley's death, Cochran put the demo away and it has never been played for anyone until he gave it to me. I'm a huge Whitley fan, and the last thing I wanted to do was sound like I was trying to imitate him. I finally had to completely quit listening to Whitley's demo in order to capture my own interpretation of the song."