

## JIM HALFPENNY

Singer/Songwriter/Composer  
Biographies

### CURRENT BIO – 8/1/21

**Jim Halfpenny** has been a professional film composer and songwriter for more than 20 years. His composing credits include the original scores for over 25 feature length films, music for a Discovery Channel series and jingles for national TV and radio ads. Jim's stylishly diverse songs have been placed in feature films, cable and network TV programs and a musical production for the stage. His unmistakable sound uniquely blends folk, rock, pop and country and his music has garnered positive press reviews from as far away as the United Kingdom. Now, with the long-anticipated arrival of his newest album *Tabula Rasa*, Jim resets his musical compass and shows us another side of his creativity.

Jim's first two outings, *First Things First* and *Truth Trust and Other Ghosts* were well-received collections of solid Americana/Folk. *Americana Music Times* described his sound as "earthy yet refined" while *The Austin Chronicle* deemed it "sturdy roots rock". *Tabula Rasa* reveals many of those same elements, in spades, but it also exposes an edgier quality that adds another dimension to his previous work. Always honest, always real, with subtle tinges of Tom Petty, Paul Simon, The Gin Blossoms and Mark Knopfler peeking out from behind strong melodies and creative lyrics.

When asked about the curious title for his new album Jim confides, "Moving from Austin to Phoenix, in a sense, wiped the music slate clean for me. I didn't feel compelled to fit into any certain genre mold anymore. Hence the album's title, *Tabula Rasa*, which is the interesting theory that we're all born without any built-in mental content, a blank slate so to speak, and that all our knowledge comes from our experiences and perceptions."

If the theory of tabula rasa is valid and perceptions and experiences count for everything, then experiencing Jim's songs on *Tabula Rasa* should definitely be on everyone's content list. With the exception of the drums, played brilliantly by Austin's Brandon Storms, Jim performed all the instruments and vocals on the album, as well as producing, mixing and mastering. "Doing all the work myself really stretched out the album's time-frame," laughs Halfpenny, "but it allowed me a level of quality-control that I've never had in past recording projects. Our semi-forced confinement due to the pandemic did have a small bright side for me, I guess."

In spite of the challenging times we've all been through these past two years, Halfpenny is on a creative roll at this juncture in his career. He's taken up painting and begun writing a novel. With the hopeful decline of the Covid-19 virus he looks forward to performing live again and he's already back in the studio recording his next album. It just goes to show what you can do with a clean slate.

*Tabula Rasa*, is scheduled for official release on August 27, 2021, and will be available at all online music outlets including iTunes, Spotify, Pandora, Amazon Music and more. There will be a week-long pre-sale period starting August 20 where early purchasers will receive an instant gratification track from the album. You can see and hear more about Jim Halfpenny, *Tabula Rasa* and his other albums and videos at [www.jimhalfpenny.com](http://www.jimhalfpenny.com).

## ALTERNATIVE BIOS

### New Album Blurb/Boilerplate

**Jim Halfpenny's** newest album, *Tabula Rasa*, is scheduled for official release on August 27, 2021, and will be available at all online music outlets including iTunes, Spotify, Pandora, Amazon Music and more. There will be a week-long pre-sale period starting August 20 where early purchasers will receive an instant gratification track from the album. You can see and hear more about Jim Halfpenny, *Tabula Rasa* and his other albums and videos at [www.jimhalfpenny.com](http://www.jimhalfpenny.com).

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### Short Bio 1

**Jim Halfpenny** has been a professional film composer and songwriter for more than 20 years. His composing credits include the original scores for over 25 feature length films, music for a Discovery Channel series and jingles for national TV and radio ads. Jim's stylishly diverse songs have been placed in feature films, cable and network TV programs and a musical production for the stage, and his CD's have garnered positive press both domestically and abroad. His unmistakable sound uniquely blends folk, rock, pop and country and was described in the Americana Music Times as "earthy, yet refined". August 27 of 2021 will see the release of his much-anticipated third album, *Tabula Rasa*, and a forth is on its way. Originally from Southern California, Jim now resides in Phoenix, Arizona, where he continues to write, record and perform. More info at [www.jimhalfpenny.com](http://www.jimhalfpenny.com).

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### Short Bio 2

**Jim Halfpenny** is no new-comer to the music business, he has been a professional film composer and songwriter for more than 25 years. His songs have been placed in feature films, network television, national ads for radio and TV, and a musical production for the stage. Jim's first album produced a saxophone-laced "newgrass" track titled, *Severe Weather*, which was selected for Austin NPR's first-ever Texas Music Matters Playlist. His follow-up album *Truth, Trust & Other Ghosts* spent 9 months on the national Americana chart and August 27 of 2022 will see the release of his much-anticipated third album, *Tabula Rasa*. Jim has performed at the Key Largo Original Music Festival, the Mississippi Songwriters Festival and the Mirrors on Texas Music Fest. He's also a founding producer of the Dripping Springs Songwriters Festival. Jim now resides in Arizona

where he is currently producing his fourth CD which is slated for release in 2022. More info at [www.jimhalfpenny.com](http://www.jimhalfpenny.com).

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### Medium Bio

**Jim Halfpenny** is no new-comer to the music business, he has been a professional film composer and songwriter for more than 25 years. His composing credits include the original scores for over 25 feature length films, music for a Discovery Channel series and soundtracks and jingles for national TV and radio ads. Jim's stylishly diverse songs have been placed in feature films, cable and network TV programs and a musical production for the stage. As a performing artist, Jim's unmistakable sound blends elements of Folk, Rock, Pop and Country and was described in the *Americana Music Times* as "earthy, yet refined". Jim's CD's have garnered enthusiastic press reviews and received coast-to-coast airplay on the Americana (AMA) charts. In 2009 his saxophone-laced "newgrass" track, *Severe Weather*, was selected for Austin NPR's first-ever Texas Music Matters Playlist, and more recently, August 27 of 2021 will see the release of his much-anticipated third album, *Tabula Rasa*. Jim has performed multiple years at the Key Largo Original Music Festival, the Mississippi Songwriters Festival and the Mirrors on Texas Music Fest, He was also a founding producer of the Dripping Springs Songwriters Festival. Currently in-studio working on his forth CD, Jim resides in Arizona, where he paints, writes, records and performs. You can see and hear more about Jim's new album, *Tabula Rasa* and his other albums and videos at [www.jimhalfpenny.com](http://www.jimhalfpenny.com).

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### Longer Bio

Leaving Los Angeles and a successful career as a film composer, Jim Halfpenny made the decision to relocate to Austin, TX and get back to his roots as a performing songwriter. Following the completion of his recording studio, Jim's self-produced debut CD, *First Things First*, was released in May of 2006 and experienced its first airplay on KGSR FM in Austin. The album received impressive reviews from music publications as far away as the UK, and its saxophone-laced "newgrass" track, *Severe Weather*, was selected to be on Austin NPR's first-ever Texas Music Matters Playlist. Four years later Jim's follow-up CD, *Truth Trust & Other Ghosts* spent 9 months on the national Americana Charts and received glowing domestic and international reviews. In January of 2011 the album received honors when radio station WWSP FM, in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, included the CD's track, *Dandelion*, on their BEST OF 2010 RELEASES list. Now ten years later, August 27 of 2021 will see the release of Jim's much-anticipated third album, *Tabula Rasa*. With the exception of the drums, played brilliantly by Austin's Brandon Storms, Jim performed all the instruments and vocals on the album, as well as producing, mixing and mastering. "Doing all the work myself really stretched out the album's time-frame," laughs Halfpenny, "but it allowed me a level of quality-control that I have never had in past recording projects."

Carefully balancing the narrow beams between Rock, Americana and Folk, Jim's sound is uniquely his own and was described by the *Americana Music Times* as "earthy, yet refined". He has performed on stages from coast-to-coast targeting the national festival circuit in order to expose his music to a wide variety of audiences. Jim has entertained crowds at the Key Largo Original Music Festival, the Mississippi Songwriters Festival and the Mirrors on Texas Music Fest, and he is also a founding producer of the Dripping Springs Songwriters Festival, held each October in Dripping Springs, TX.

Jim currently resides in Arizona where he's on a creative roll at this juncture in his career, pursuing two things he's always wanted to do - taken up painting and writing a novel. Look for Jim's newest album, *Tabula Rasa*, scheduled for release on August 27, 2021, available at all the usual online music outlets including iTunes,

Spotify, Pandora, Amazon Music and more. You can see and hear more about Jim Halfpenny, *Tabula Rasa* and his other albums and videos at [www.jimhalfpenny.com](http://www.jimhalfpenny.com).

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### Long Bio

**Jim Halfpenny** was born and raised in rural Southern California, in a desert farming community crisscrossed by veins of canals bringing water to the otherwise arid landscape. High school summers were spent driving tractor and working in the fields, often side by side with Braceros and migrant farm workers. At night he'd practice guitar and perform at parties and high school dances in the rock band where he wrote his first songs. Considering these rootsy origins it's not hard to understand why Jim's music is so potent with earthy textures – he seems to have borrowed his music's essence from the rich soil he used to cultivate as a kid.

In the years leading up to August of 2002 Jim was living in Los Angeles, California. His progressive rock band Native Alien was performing regularly at such iconic Sunset Strip establishments as Gazzarri's and The Troubadour. He had graduated from Musician's Institute and attended UCLA to study film composition, and his career as a film composer was flourishing. In his twelve years of working in Los Angeles' competitive film business his music credits tallied over 25 feature film scores, dozens of movie trailers, a 13 episode series for television and a musical production for the stage. His work often encompassed musical styles ranging from rap to orchestral and everything in between. After returning to LA from an exhilarating trip to SXSW in Austin, TX, Jim and his wife swiftly sold their home in California, bought a house on some land in the Texas Hill Country and built a recording studio, naming it Back 40 Studios.

Taking advantage of new found inspiration, the first project to come out of Back 40 Studios was Jim's debut album, *First Things First*. The CD was released in June of 2006 and by the end of summer it had garnered some pretty impressive reviews in music magazines in the Austin area and abroad. "Halfpenny writes deep, thought provoking lyrics", wrote Maria Mesa of *Austin Daze* magazine, "one of the better singer/songwriters to come my way." Jim Caligiuri, of the *Austin Chronicle* noted in his review, "*First Things First* is filled with sturdy roots rock and occasional treks to Dave Matthews space jazz." "Highly recommended!" quoted Laura Bethell of *Maverick Magazine* in Kent, England. The album soon found its way to the airwaves both locally in Austin and regionally on independent radio stations across Central Texas. Honors came in the spring of 2009 when Jim's saxophone-laced "newgrass" tune, *Severe Weather* was selected to be on Austin NPR's first-ever Texas Music Matters Playlist - being one of only 15 songs chosen out of hundreds of submissions. Laura Slavin of KPFT FM, in Houston, began playing *Severe Weather* regularly on her program and repeatedly hosted Jim on her show, live-on-air.

Jim Halfpenny's second CD, *Truth Trust & Other Ghosts*, was released in June of 2010 and hit the ground running. After teaming up with a prominent radio promoter out of Nashville the album climbed the national Americana (AMA) Charts and received airplay on radio stations ranging coast to coast. More honors came in January of 2011 when radio station WWSP FM, in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, included the *Truth Trust & Other Ghosts* track, *Dandelion*, on their BEST OF 2010 RELEASES list.

Now finally, after an unusually longtime between projects, Jim's highly-anticipated new album, *Tabula Rasa*, is scheduled for release on August 27, 2021. The album's rhythm tracks were recorded in Texas and everything else was performed, finished and polished in Arizona. With the exception of the drums, played brilliantly by Austin's Brandon Storms, Jim performed all the instruments and vocals on the album, as well as producing,

mixing and mastering. “Doing all the work myself really stretched out the album’s time-frame,” laughs Halfpenny, “but it allowed me a level of quality-control that I’ve never had in past recording projects.”

Studio time can be very rewarding, but playing in front of a live audience is what Jim enjoys most. Over the past few years he has targeted the national festival circuit to expose his music to a wide variety of audiences. Among the list of music festivals where Jim has performed are the Key Largo Original Music Festival, The Mississippi Songwriters Festival and the Mirrors on Texas Music Festival. Jim is also a founding producer of the Dripping Springs Songwriters Festival, held each year on the third weekend of October in Dripping Springs, TX.

When asked to describe his music Jim is often flustered, but fans describe his sound as a mixture of Tom Petty, Paul Simon, Glen Phillips, Steve Earle and The Gin Blossoms. He carefully balances the narrow beams between Rock, Pop, Americana, Country and Folk with the agility of an acrobat. Jim’s conscious effort to maintain lyrical integrity and musical originality is the divine thread that weaves through the fabric of each of his songs. This is what distinguishes Jim Halfpenny’s music and makes it instantly identifiable. The keys to a songwriter’s success, he believes, are well-crafted songs, focus and determination. "An old ranch foreman once told me," Jim relates, "it takes more than just sun, water and hard work to make a living out of farming. You need to be god-awful stubborn and a little crazy too. Over the years I’ve come to realize that the music business is hell of a lot like farming."

Jim currently resides in Arizona where he continues to cultivate his music. He’s on a creative roll at this juncture in his career - taken up painting and begun writing a novel. With the hopeful decline of Covid-19 Jim looks forward to performing live again, and he’s already back in the studio recording his next project.

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*For more information, promo requests, or to arrange an interview, contact Jim Halfpenny at [jim@jimhalfpenny.com](mailto:jim@jimhalfpenny.com), 512-619-4706 or [jimhalfpenny.com](http://jimhalfpenny.com).*