

JANUARY 2009



TROUBADOUR NEWSLETTER

BOOK REVIEW:

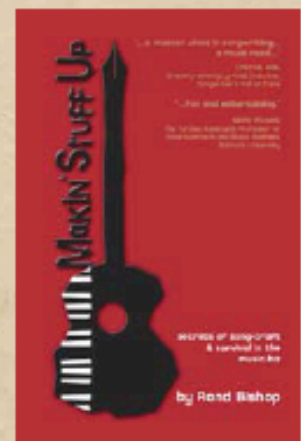
MAKIN' STUFF UP

BY RAND BISHOP

If you have ever aspired to write a song that changed the world, or if you are the slightest bit curious about what it might take to accomplish that feat, *Makin' Stuff Up* by Rand Bishop is a great place to start your journey. (In the spirit of full disclosure, Rand and I are co-founders of a Nashville music publishing company.) This book reads just like a conversation with Rand. He intersperses practical advice about Nashville and song construction with vignettes from his life that are just as instructive as the songwriting lessons.

Rand, who is co-author of the number-one Toby Keith hit *My List*, takes us through the writing, re-writing and demo recording of two songs, one section at a time. (If you read only one chapter, choose 'The Bridge' because Rand writes the tidiest two-line bridges this recovering songwriter-turned-reviewer has ever studied.) Every other chapter contains a story from his 40-year career as a recording artist, record producer and songwriter for some of the biggest names in the industry. This format propels the reader forward like a good road trip and will teach you plenty along the way.

Rand is selling *Makin' Stuff Up* only through his website and Amazon.com, using its publication to launch a new on-line songwriting service by the same name. At www.makinstuffup.net, readers who hate to see the book end will have the opportunity to interact with Rand and his fellow Nashville song crafters, and songwriters who sign up as members will be able to get feedback each month on some of their own songs. I encourage you to visit the website - maybe you'll write the next song that changes the world!



Reviewed by Parker MacDonell,
Founder of Six String Concerts