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**Austin Collins & the Rainbirds to Release**  
**Wrong Control March 2**

**Produced by Will Johnson (Centro-Matic)**

*No Depression:* "Wrong Control comes highly recommended Collins and the Rainbirds deliver another strong set of Americana rock"

*Songs:Illinois:* "On record Austin Collins has a full band sound that brings me back to the robust sounds of early Replacements and Uncle Tupelo."

**For Immediate Release-Austin Texas**

Singer/Songwriter/Musician Austin Collins and his band the Rainbirds, are set to release their highly anticipated record **Wrong Control** March 2nd, on **Eight Dollar Music Records**.

The band returned to the studio with Will Johnson (Centro-matic) to record this past October. The end result--10 tracks--seven of which were written by Collins, one by lead guitarist Dylan McDougall, and two by drummer Craig Bagby. Collins says that producer Johnson, who's been moonlighting as the drummer for the *Monsters Of Folk* tour, "brings the grit and pop of a Centro record to our Americana leanings." "We're obviously proud and very pleased with the album."

Hailing from Austin, Texas, **Austin Collins & the Rainbirds** make American music that would make anyone longing for a Whiskeytown reunion proud. With two previous albums, hundreds of live shows countrywide, a recent contest win, and a new record deal with European label **Blue Rose Records**, the guys have gained considerable momentum and earned a reputation as a dedicated, hardworking band that produces provocative lyrics and catchy tunes.

*"Great rewards come from great risk."*

"After their acclaimed 2008 release **Roses are Black**, **Austin Collins & the Rainbirds** set out to forge their own destiny, a decision vindicated by their 2009 win of the *Airplay's Direct* 2009 **All Things Americana** award. "It wasn't a glamour contest—

they're not taking a waitress who's cute and making her a pop star," Collins said. "We were selected out of 130 entrants. We earned this."

## **New Album, *Wrong Control* – March 2, 2010**

### Austin Collins and The Rainbirds

The songs he sings are earnest and heartfelt, hauntingly beautiful in melody and superbly sharp in observance. They are sweetly serious, and they are delicately crafted.

Austin Collins is a bit of a juxtaposition in personality from the songs he so masterfully writes—he's a witty guy who leans more often than not on his keen sense of humor to soak up the few down moments during his shows. He'll make you cry with a song, he'll make you laugh with a joke, and then he'll make you cry again if he feels like it. Jokes are one thing—we all have a friend we can count on for a good laugh. These songs of his, though...

Not many people have a friend who can do what Austin does so impeccably well.

The Houston born, Austin, TX based Collins, whose stellar recording resume includes two critically acclaimed releases (2005's *Something Better* and 2008's *Roses Are Black*) has again returned with heart in hand and music in groove. His latest offering, *Wrong Control*, is by name mysterious and unique, but that's par for Austin's course. He's a writer, after all, and as any good writer will tell you, one mustn't tip ones hand right off the bat. And so, you can't help but wonder exactly what it is that went wrong and exactly what it is that he's trying to control.

First, what went *Wrong*:

Relationships. Attempts to break out. Chances to learn things that are as yet unknown. The drive to find out what else there is in life.

That's not to say these failed launches don't eventually lift off for the cast of characters that wander in and out of Austin's songs. He leaves them (and us) with just enough glimmers of hope, with just the right amount of possibilities, to believe that they might someday break out of the gracefully sketched situations they find themselves in.

Second, the *Control*:

His trademark lonesome, free-ranging vocals. The sparse instrumental arrangements. The ability to get a little heavier, a little grittier when it's called for.

With Centro-Matic's Will Johnson at the production helm, Collins' Rainbirds, consisting of Craig Bagby on drums and Dylan McDougall on guitars, both of whom garner writing credits on the album, manage to match their leading mans' lyrical brushstrokes with musical accompaniment that stays out of its own way—the co-star beside the people living within this collection of songs. They pick and choose their moments with expertise, creating a vast and colorful landscape upon which the drama can unfold.

And as that drama unfolds, you begin to get this feeling:

There's just so much Austin Collins and the Rainbirds got right with *Wrong Control*.

## Cut By Cut

### 1. Just The Same

by Austin Collins

People don't change. This song is a funeral for my optimistic hope that grownups will act like grownups. That hope is buried and dead, making peace with this will make my life easier. – Austin

### 2. Conventional Lust

by Austin Collins

Satisfaction is not being rich or owning enough shiny things. We focus on the things that are least important. We strive and strain, in an effort to wring something beneficial out of this unyielding earth. All of this is at the expense of the things that do matter.

Humans are petty. We forget to be thankful. We focus on whatever our current inconvenience happens to be. We believe any talking head who tells us we have a crisis on our hands. I wrote this song to give myself permission to be different with an insistent tone, i.e. this has to happen. Your personal paradigm has to change if anything's ever going to change. We can make this better. – Austin

### 3. Care

by Austin Collins

I call this song the script to my neurotic head-movie. Care is a snapshot my steady brain battle. Constant distraction and confusion; bait and switch tactics. Sometimes I really can't seem to land a thought that will stick. I work myself up and pace – mentally and physically. It really bothers me. – Austin

### 4. Head Down

by Craig Bagby

I've had the great privilege to play drums for some great songwriters during my career. It always made me feel so intimidated that I didn't want to show my own writings to other people. Then, in 2003, I was trying to co-write a song with Scott Melott for our record. Our producer, Alejandro Escovedo, walked by and we talked a little bit. As he walked away, it was if he could sense my apprehension about my lyrics. He turned and said "You know, I didn't even write a song on my own till I was over 30". That's all I needed to hear, and I have never stopped writing since.

That's what this song is about. I will never be ashamed of believing in myself completely. I may not wind up anywhere of note from all of this, but" I'm never coming back with my head down." – Craig

### 5. Wrong Control

by Austin Collins

We posture and polish ourselves up in an effort to present the best version of ourselves to the world around us. We put on these masks. Nobody knows anybody because its just one mask trying to connect with another mask. It becomes confusing because its hard to remember who you're supposed to be at which moment. I wouldn't go as far as to say that control is an illusion, but it certainly has diminishing returns. – Austin

### 6. Forever Avenue

by Dylan McDougall and Ross Fleming

Ross Fleming and I wrote several songs together. Forever Avenue was the one that I never stopped playing. It started out as a song we had in mind for someone like Buck Owens, and it transformed many times. The latest version is the one that stuck, and the first to be released. To finally get to record this

song, with a band as great as the Rainbirds, was a privilege. This song is about not giving up. When you find something you want, you have to go get it. Stay focused, even if it takes forever. - Dylan

## 7. Island

by Austin Collins

I hate when relationships come with strings. I also hate when someone gets his or her jollies off of creating co-dependence. It's like the new gateway drug, the new addiction to a spiritually numb culture that is constantly looking for guidance. This song came from watching people I love fall prey to other people I love in this way. It's like a declaration of personal freedom, I guess. John Donne said "No Man Is An Island" and I thought to myself, "Shut up, John Donne". – Austin

## 8. Frailer Ground

by Austin Collins

Falling in love, falling out of love, being afraid of loving again. It's easier when it happens to you. Its painful no matter what. Fear is a powerful master. It paralyzes. It also makes you second-guess every moment, every word. Is there anything left besides what could have been and what we did to cause this? – Austin

## 9. Worn

by Craig Bagby

From my experiences, love is not like they show it to be on a sappy Hallmark card. If I rolled up my khakis and went for a moonlit walk on the beach, I would probably step on a jellyfish. Real life is not like a greeting card or a sitcom. Real life is inconvenient. It makes you tired and sore. It puts gray in your hair, lines on your face, and you rarely win. But if you're lucky – I mean damned lucky – you get to share it with someone. You get to put in miles and miles of baby steps and occasionally look back on the ground you covered together. – Craig

## 10. Centerpiece

by Austin Collins

Have you ever met an actual narcissist? You can't approach this person on even ground - it's the whole "horse to water" thing. The thesis of the song is you're exhausting yourself pretending to be someone you're not and it's working – you've actually changed into someone else. The hardest thing is I love you but I cannot help you. - Austin