

# The New York Times

## Just Before Summer Tours, a Burst of New CDs

By ANDY LANGER, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### Jason Boland and the Stragglers

*Dark & Dirty Mile (May 14)*

**THE STORY** Armed with a distinctive baritone and a catalog of songs you can two-step to, the Oklahoma-bred and Austin-based Mr. Boland has been a consistent favorite on the Red Dirt touring circuit. On album No. 7, he confirms that he is one of the country scene's most multidimensional songwriters, unfurling honky-tonk rave-ups, slices of slow-burn swing and tear-in-your-beer ballads.

**START HERE** On "Electric Bill," traditional fiddle and pedal-steel belie a very modern love song about the economy and advanced government surveillance: "When they need to take a closer look at what it means to love, they can watch with a drone from miles above."