Contents

Introduction: The Importance of Being Ironic—Toward a Theory and Critique of Alt.Country Music
BARBARA CHING AND PAMELA FOX • 1

Selling Out or Buying In?: Alt.Country’s Cultural Politics of Commercialism
DIANE PECKNOLD • 28

JON SMITH • 51

Beyond Austin’s City Limits: Justin Treviño and the Boundaries of “Alternative” Country
AARON A. FOX • 83

Meeting in the Marketplace: A Taste for Romance in Songcatcher and O Brother, Where Art Thou?
BARBARA CHING • 111

Time as “Revelator”: Alt.Country Women’s Performance of the Past
PAMELA FOX • 134

“Regressive Country”: The Voice of Gram Parsons
OLIVIA CARTER MATHER • 154
edited by Pamela Fox and Barbara Ching
http://www.press.umich.edu/titleDetailDesc.do?id=344030

Old Time Punk
AARON SMITHERS • 175

“The Burden Is Passed On”: Son Volt, Tradition, and Authenticity
STEVIE SIMKIN • 192

Conclusion: New Alternatives—Top 40 “Outlaws”
Gretchen Wilson, Miranda Lambert, and the Dixie Chicks
PAMELA FOX AND BARBARA CHING • 222

Alt.Country Chronology
KELLY BURCHFIELD AND BARBARA CHING • 233

Works Cited • 241
Contributors • 263
Index • 265