

## Mp3 Dan Cunningham - I Think Of Home



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Award winning acoustic songs wrapped in the rich textures of guitar, cello and harp. 18 MP3 Songs

FOLK: Modern Folk, FOLK: like Joni Details: 2004 VIEWER'S CHOICE WINNER ON KWEEVAK.COM

"We journey, yet feel the tug of home" Joni Mitchell in a coonskin cap? Well, not exactly. A literary descendant of Robert Louis Stevenson, Dan forms poetic songs of wonder and beauty, wrapped in the rich textures of acoustic guitar, cello and harp. The strains of fluid melody fill the senses with the image of a secret place and time, now forgotten. Songs from the CD have received considerable recognition: One instrumental, DEEP FOREST JOURNEY, was a finalist in the March 2004 Song Of The Year Contest. THE WIND IS UP received Honorable Mention in the Billboard Song Contest. Three song entries from the CD qualified Dan for the finals of the FestvALL division of the Mountain Stage NewSong Contest in June 2005. I THINK OF HOME recounts our journeys in life and the longings for home we carry with us. The expressive use of acoustic guitar, cello, and celtic harp is punctuated by vocals and occasional bass, drums, fiddle and clarinet. The lyrics take us to a private place seldom visited in the hustle of our day, and still make space for some fun. This "New Appalachian" music has it's main roots in the authentic expressions of mountain culture. But it also draws on a diverse vocabulary of styles while creating a vivid rural portrait. Part instrumental, part vocal, the lyrics are poetry from a deep well of experience. At an early age, Dan spent long hours listening to a 50's era Zenith console, playing and replaying the the one 45 rpm single each of Eddie Arnold and Fats Domino, and the 78's of Dinah Shore and Haydn's "Surprise" Symphony. The imprint on an impressionable young mind was profound, and you might say he never recovered. Dan drifted in a musical wilderness of rock, country, and jazz, searching for that elusive paradise of musical truth. And then, one late night lying awake in a fleabag motel, Dan saw the light. It turned out to the flickering neon sign from "Murph's Caf" next door. As fate would have it, the very next

day as Dan was dining at that same caf, savoring the only item on the menu he could afford; a small order of chili-cheese fries. His eyes were drawn to the Elvis portraits in black velvet, and just below, a small smeared blackboard with the lunch special, "Murph's Bologna Burger". At that moment inspiration struck and would have knocked Dan's socks off, had he been wearing any. The central question was clear....why top your burger with bologna and not chili? It was time to play real music, music that tops off the meaty taste of life like chili on a flame grilled hamburger still dripping with the satisfying essence of fullness. It was from this point the distinct and varied music he called "New Appalachian" began to come forth. (As along as he stayed away from the fifth). Dan has performed/recorded with Phil Keaggy (Grammy nominee and Dove award winner), Robin Kessinger (1985 National Flatpicking Champion), Nedra Talley Ross (Ronettes), Phil Madeira (Nashville songwriter, recording artist) Lance DeMers (Hannah's Prayer), John Fischer, Jenny Allinder, Ted Sandquist and others. But it wasn't until the late 1990's that Dan began to concentrate on his own music, culminating in the release of Dan's first CD, INTO THE FLOW, in 2001. I THINK OF HOME builds on that foundation with the inclusion of many vocal tracks, the thoughtful lyrics resembling poetry set to music. The Dominion Post has described Dan's playing as "guitar genius" and by Ben Ohmart of Music Dish as "luscious." "Dan Cunningham plays his guitar the way a man loves a woman---with heart and caring and affection." Richard Fuller

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