

Mp3 Dan Cunningham - Wayfaring Stranger



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Accomplished acoustic guitarist updates the colorful Appalachian storytelling tradition. 16 MP3 Songs

FOLK: Folk Pop, FOLK: Traditional Folk Details: Accomplished acoustic guitarist and award winning songwriter Dan Cunningham (a.k.a. pickndawg) updates the colorful Appalachian storytelling tradition with tales of wit and woe. Well known tunes like Battle Cry Of Freedom and Wayfaring Stranger are also given new life with fresh, earthy interpretations. Who is Pickndawg? Joni Mitchell in a coonskin cap? (with a gap-tooth grin?) The Appalachian story-telling tradition is alive and vibrant in the hands of this accomplished guitarist. Wit and whimsy merge to form a rewarding lyrical and musical journey. This New Appalachian music pours forth naturally with the essential simplicity of the rural mountains while drawing on a diverse vocabulary of styles. At an early age, Dan spent long hours listening to a 50's era Zenith console, playing and replaying the only recordings available; a 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. Drifting from rock, to country to jazz; to blues, Bach and back again, Dan's own musical voice was slow to develop. And then, one late night laying awake in a fleabag motel, Dan saw the light. It turned out to be 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 and staining the paper wrapper with

the abundant excess. It was from this point the distinct and varied music he called "New Appalachian" began to come forth. (As long as he stayed away from the fifth). Over the years 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), among others. In 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. The CD received glowing reviews and was a Viewers Choice award winner on Kweevak.com. His second CD, I THINK OF HOME, built on this musical vision, expanding the range of expression for Appalachian-based music. The songs received recognition in several songwriting competitions. Dan's current release, WAYFARING STRANGER (2006), is a showcase for his songwriting abilities. Traditional storytelling is reformed with shades of contemporary sounds while retaining the acoustic texture. The Dominion Post has described Dan's playing as "guitar genius" and by Ben Ohmart of Music Dish as "luscious." The guitar is outstanding! Im talking great technique, great emotion and inventive playing. -southofmainstream.com "Dan Cunningham plays his guitar the way a man loves a woman, with heart and caring and affection." -Richard Fuller

Discography: Courts of the King (1976) Ted Sandquist Emerging (1977) Phil Keaggy Band Let The Whole Earth (1984) Ted Sandquist Be My Refuge (1985) Ted Sandquist Not For Flatpickers Only (1986) Robin Kessinger Re-Emerging (2000) Phil Keaggy Band Into The Flow (2001) Thread Of Healing (2002) Karen Taylor I Think Of Home(2003)

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