



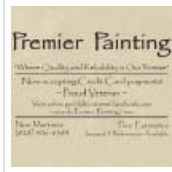
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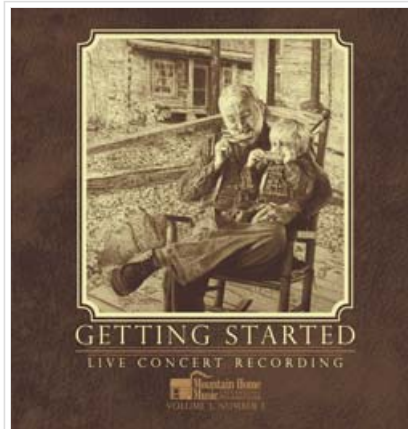
NOVEMBER 18, 2010 ISSUE

# Mountain Home Music Issues First Concert CD

Story by Anna Oakes

For more than 16 years, Mountain Home Music has brought live performances of authentic Appalachian music to local venues, featuring "world-class Appalachian performers that you've probably never heard of."

Now, the organization honors the music and musicians of the Appalachian region by releasing its first concert album—a compilation of eight tracks recorded during Mountain Home Music shows over the years titled *Getting Started*.



The cover art of *Getting Started* features a drawing by Appalachian pencil artist and musician Willard Gayheart titled "Perfect Harmony."

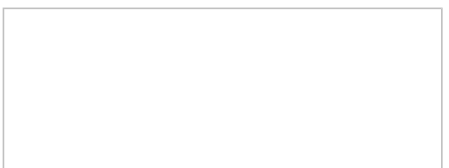
The CD, the first in a series of Mountain Home Music concert recordings to be released, includes tracks from artists who have contributed to the series since the beginning: Steve Lewis, Scott Freeman, Josh Scott and David Johnson, known collectively as the Mountain Home Bluegrass Boys; Wayne Henderson; Jeff Little; Helen White; Herb Key; Strictly Clean & Decent; Skeeter and the Skidmarks; and Joe Shannon, the host and founder of the music series.

"Those guys have been on Mountain Home Music since the very first shows," said Shannon. These were musicians who embraced and supported the mission of Mountain Home Music, often refusing

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payment after performances unless the organization would break even.

"If they hadn't had that attitude, we wouldn't have made it," Shannon added.

Shannon founded the series in 1994 to provide a venue for the many lesser known—but supremely talented—traditional musicians of the region to be heard by receptive audiences. After an initial performance at Our Daily Bread in Boone, the concert series has seen many venues, including area churches and ASU campus buildings, and has been aired on public and local radio stations.

These days, Mountain Home Music shows typically take place at the Blowing Rock School Auditorium, with selected concerts at area churches and at Blowing Rock's Meadowbrook Inn.

The makings of this first concert recording began eight years ago, when Shannon was awarded a grant from the Clabough Foundation that allowed Mountain Home Music to purchase digital recording equipment. Prior to that a few concerts had been recorded using an old analog system.

Four years ago, the Ginn Corporation also awarded a grant to the music series, which provided funding for the archival of old Mountain Home Music concert recordings "so that all these performances would be preserved," Shannon said.

"To put this CD together, we went back and listened to lots of old shows," said Shannon.

"The digital [recording] process really makes a substantial improvement," which is why Shannon made the decision to use recordings from more recent shows, rather than earlier ones, for the new CD.

Shannon said he already has the next two or three CDs in the concert album series planned in his head, and after learning a lot from compiling the first album, he hopes the next CD could be ready as soon as next spring.

"We have hundreds of shows," he noted.

*Getting Started* is available at Rydell Music Center in Boone, Fred's Mercantile in Beech Mountain and at Pandora's Mailbox and the Dulcimer Shop in Blowing Rock. The CD can also be purchased via PayPal at [www.mountainhomemusic.com](http://www.mountainhomemusic.com).

For more information, call 828-964-3392 or click to [www.mountainhomemusic.com](http://www.mountainhomemusic.com).