

PRESS RELEASE

RELEASE DATE; MAY 2018

ITEM: Folksinger and banjo picker, Michael Johnathon, has produced a musical kids project that will introduce K-7th grade kids to the banjo, bluegrass music and the instruments that play it.

INCLUDED INSIDE the 32-page full color illustrated book "**MOUSIE HIWAY: The Adventures of Banjo Mouse in the Appalachian Mountains**" is a 6 1/2 minute acoustic hip-hop Appalachian bluegrass song that tells the story of Banjo Mouse traveling the Appalachian mountains and forming a bluegrass band, complete with illustrations that Michael drew himself.

The reason for this approach is to get kids who might not be familiar with bluegrass music to "want" to find out more. It also celebrates the Appalachian "front porch" heritage so dear to many in the mountain communities.

In that goal, Johnathon chose a very unexpected approach:

Included with the book is a CD of the audio book version, recorded as an **acoustic Appalachian hip-hop bluegrass spoken-word composition**. The recording features Kentucky bluegrass legends the **McLAIN FAMILY BAND** and multi-award winner and IBMA Dobro Player of the Year **ROB ICKES**. The 32-page full color book includes **LESSON PLANS** for classrooms and a CD of the audio book version as well.



Johnathon, the creator and host of the **WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour**, actually lived in Mousie, KY for nearly three years in the late 80's. A prolific songwriter and instrumentalist, he is releasing a 23-song album of all banjo songs to coincide with the release of the Mousie HiWay, both due in May 2018.

For information visit: MichaelJohnathon.com/MousieHiWay

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EDITORS: We are presenting you with an unpublished web page to look over the project online and download artwork: MichaelJohnathon.com/advance

"Take the inventiveness of Bob Dylan, the melodic voice of John Denver, add the showmanship of Garrison Keillor ... and that's Michael Johnathon."

Bob Spear - Publisher, HEARTLAND REVIEW

BIO: Folksinger Michael Johnathon has a long-standing career as a songwriter, playwright, composer of the opera, Woody: For the People, and as the host of the live audience broadcast of the WoodSongs Old Time Radio Hour with an audience of over two million listeners each week on 500 public radio stations, public television coast-to-coast, plus American Forces Radio Network in 173 nations, now on RFD-TV Friday evenings

MEDIA servicing: radio@woodsongs.com or call 859-255-5700

In music and friendship,
Loretta Sawyer

