

COSMIC BANJO

*Pete Seeger meets Pink Floyd
in a "Classical Gas" mood*

Michael Johnathon takes his banjo seriously.

The unexpected follow up to **THE PAINTER** comes this celebration of the long neck banjo and Michael's unusual picking style ... "**picking and frailing at the same time.**" Using a normal thumbpick, plus a metal pick on the first finger but the **SECOND PICK** is upside down. The style was pioneered by folk icon Pete Seeger, aggressively adjusted for Michael's unique banjo style.

The banjo has been the foundation instrument for the global "front porch" for generations, especially in rural America. This CD explores the unique combination method MJ uses.

ALBUM HIGHLIGHTS (all songs Produced & Arranged by MJ):

BALLAD OF BOJANGLES is a complete rewrite of the Mr Bojangles story, featuring the legendary John McEuen, founding member of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band on mandolin

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING performed live in a concert hall with the Niles String Quartet

DARLIN' COREY the Beatle-esque interpretation of the classic folk tale with a 21-piece string section

THE BAGHDAD BREAKDOWN What would a bluegrass band in the middle east sound like?

BAN-JOKES is every banjo joke Michael knows stuffed into a single song, performed live onstage

COSMIC BANJO think "Pete Seeger meets Pink Floyd." Really.

Among the throngs of artists in the music world, few have elevated "dreaming" to such a high art form as American folk singer Michael Johnathon. From symphony halls to coffeehouses, the hollers of Appalachia to inner city clubs, he has played them all and carried his long neck banjo onstage each time.

Cosmic Banjo is his 18th album release. He is the author of six published books (**WoodSongs 5** released in 2022), the screenwriter for the upcoming **Caney Creek** motion picture, organizer of the national association of front porch musicians called **SongFarmers**, the full symphony performances of **Songs of Rural America** and as the creator and host of the live audience broadcast of the **WoodSongs Old Time Radio Hour** with a radio audience of over two million listeners each week on 500 public radio stations, public television coast-to-coast, American Forces Radio Network in 177 nations and now on TV stations across north America.

*"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



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