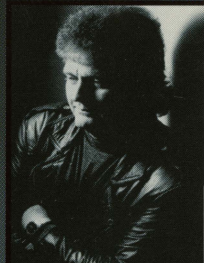
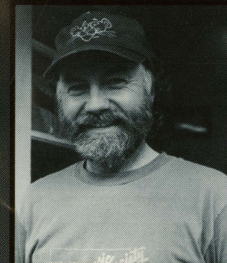


RECORDED LIVE IN CONCERT

# Masters of the Steel String Guitar



Eddie Pennington,  
John Cephas,  
Wayne Henderson,  
Johnny Bellar



with Linda and David Lay, & Phil Wiggins



# Masters of the Steel String Guitar

A legendary National tour recorded in live performance.

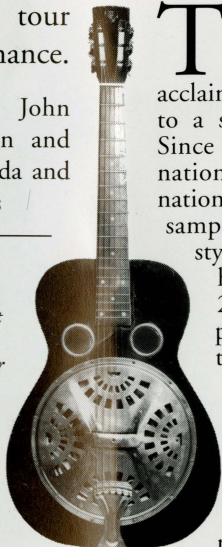
Featuring Johnny Bellar, John Cephas, Wayne Henderson and Eddie Pennington with Linda and David Lay and Phil Wiggins

*This tour was produced by the National Council for the Traditional Arts. For more about NCTA, upcoming tour information, and its many other national events, please visit their website:*

**www.ncta.net**

*email:*  
**info@ncta.net**

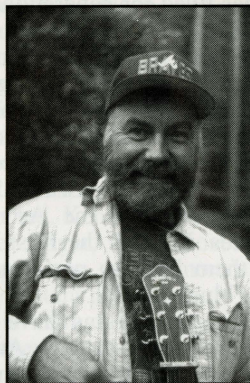
*or write:*  
NCTA  
1320 Fenwick Lane, #200  
Silver Spring, MD 20910



The guitar showcase, **Masters of the Steel String Guitar**, is one of the nation's most acclaimed performances devoted to a single musical instrument. Since its inception in 1990, this national tour has crossed the nation four times, presenting a sampling of American guitar styles. The edition of the tour heard here is from the 1999-2000 touring season and presents performers of deeply traditional styles.

These recordings were made as the tour traveled north from Arizona and through California, Oregon, and Washington. They were made direct to digital in stereo from the board mix, no secret weapons, overdubs, nor even major edits. What you hear is what the audience heard.

## Wayne Henderson



Wayne Henderson was born, raised, and still lives in tiny Rugby, Virginia, in the White Top Mountain area of the Blue Ridge near the North Carolina border. There he has a luthier's shop and builds guitars and an occasional mandolin.

Wayne grew up in the shadow of two great Appalachian players who happened to be his neighbors, fingerpicker Estil Ball and

flatpicking wizard Doc Watson (who sometimes drops by the shop).

Sometimes Wayne's playing is mistaken for flatpicking but he actually uses a thumpick and fingerpicks to achieve amazing speed and fluidity, transforming fiddle and banjo tunes and an occasional jazz standard into stunning guitar solos.

In 1995 the National Endowment for the Arts honored Wayne for both his fine playing and exquisitely fashioned steel-string guitars. He was given a "living treasure" award, a National Heritage Fellowship.

Wayne has performed at Carnegie Hall, for the Smithsonian, and for a Presidential inauguration. He has toured through Asia and Europe and performed at festivals everywhere.

But he prefers playing around home, and the home folks seem to like him as they have created and named a festival for him. The Wayne C. Henderson Festival is held annually at nearby Mt. Rogers, Virginia's highest mountain. Visit the festival website.

**www.Is.net/~wayne/html**



John Cephas performs Piedmont blues, the oldest form of blues, a form with repertoire and performance links to the black string bands that began in Colonial America. Much of his guitar style was learned in his youth from local players in Caroline County, Virginia,



John Cephas  
& Phil Wiggins

the Tidewater area north of Richmond where his mother's family has lived for generations and where John still resides.

Cephas and his musical partner, harmonica virtuoso Phil Wiggins, have twice been asked to perform at the White House. In 1997 President Clinton had them perform for the ceremony when he awarded the National Metals of the Arts and Humanities. In 1999 the First Lady invited them back to perform in a PBS-TV blues special.

Cephas and Wiggins have won three coveted W. C. Handy Awards for their heartfelt renditions of blues classics. In 1989 Cephas was also awarded a National Heritage Fellowship by the Arts Endowment for his exemplary keeping of this historic and treasured music.

Growing up in Caroline County, Cephas sometimes performed for "country breakdown" house dances where the vigor of acrobatic dancing sometimes did literally break down the floor of the house. He reminds us, "this is music from the heart, it tells the truth."

Eddie Pennington performs a guitar style linked to a place. That place is Western Kentucky where a form locally called "thumb-picking" seems to have grown out of the alternating thumb and finger style of the women's parlor guitar styles of the late 1800s.

How this happened is still obscure, but Kennedy Jones' mom is suspected. Kennedy and his buddies, Mose Rager, and most notably, Merle Travis, spread mom's style to many distant places.

This demanding style requires that the guitarist become his own bass player, and keep up a thumb driven rhythm while the fingers pick a lead. Travis took it to Hollywood in the 1940s, and it was adopted by Chet Atkins, and has since spread everywhere.

Eddie Pennington is living proof that many of the greatest players are still from the home turf of the style. A lighthearted and often humorous performer, Eddie was a frequent visitor at the home of Mose Rager, arguably the most important innovator in developing this style.

Eddie is like the founders of the style in performing on both acoustic and electric instruments. He is respectful of the tradition he keeps, but he is also extending and enriching the tradition with his own brilliant contributions.

His zest and humor in delivering this regional style would especially please founders Merle Travis & his older brother John, and Mose Regar. Like Eddie, they were lighthearted and quick to show a lick to any kid interested in the style.



Eddie Pennington



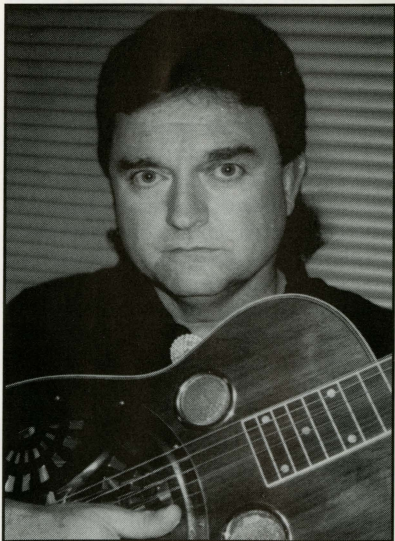
**J**ohnny Bellar is a virtuoso string musician and great singer from Ashland City, Tenn. His primary instrument is the resophonic guitar, sometimes called a Dobro, after the name of the company that first made and distributed this American innovation on guitar construction.

An acoustic instrument first created in the 1920s and always played with a steel bar, the resophonic has a mysterious, dark and compelling voice. Only the human voice seems able to match the instrument in tonal shadings and in the expression of emotion.

Johnny is also a world-class performer on the string bass and lap steel, the latter a form of guitar that was the primary voice in Hawaiian and country music from the 1930s until the 1950s. It is now very popular among "retro" country performers.

Johnny spent his first ten years as a professional musician traveling as a member of the Stoneman Family. In recent years he has become known for his gorgeous compositions for the resophonic and

## Johnny Bellar



for his fine contributions as a Nashville session musician.

A staff musician on the Grand Ole Opry, Johnny always works hard at making ensembles sound good and in supporting others.

## Linda and David Lay



**L**inda Lay is a singer and string bass player from Bristol, Virginia, and a special favorite among Appalachian heartland musicians. Linda's vocal abilities range from bluegrass to jazz, she has a vocal power that is astounding, and she is wonderfully gifted with the ability to harmonize.

Back home Linda's soaring vocals are featured in the bluegrass band, Appalachian Trail. She also has a solo recording, and is a favorite at festivals around the nation.

David Lay is a rhythm guitarist

and singer who performs with the Appalachian Trail band and with his wife, Linda Lay.

**P**hil Wiggins is among the most gifted musicians to ever take up the harmonica, and a partner of John Cephas for over 20 years. Phil is able to take his instrument to any form of music, and his compositions are performed by many blues musicians.

One of Phil's early bands was with Mother Scott, a Washington, DC singer who got her start with Bessie Smith in the Rabbit Foot Minstrels troupe of chitlin' circuit performers. Phil also worked with the wonderful Washington street musician, Flora Molton.



## Phil Wiggins



## The Tunes and Songs:

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### 1. **I Don't Love Nobody**

Wayne Henderson, lead, with Linda Lay, bass, and David Lay, rhythm. This is an Appalachian fiddle tune, and Wayne's father was an Appalachian fiddler. Wayne also recalls hearing his friend, Doc Watson, perform it on guitar.

### 2. **Cannonball Blues**

Wayne Henderson with Linda and David Lay. This widespread tune was performed by Blind Lemon Jefferson and Maybelle Carter in the early years, and by Katherine Reedy, the neighbor who taught Wayne chords.

### 3. **A Coat Of Many Colors**

(Dolly Parton, *Velvet Apple Music*) Linda Lay, vocal and bass, Wayne Henderson, lead guitar, David Lay, rhythm guitar.

### 4. **Carter Family Medley**

(AP Carter, *APRS*) Wayne Henderson with Linda and David Lay. Wayne says these are some of the first tunes he ever learned.

### 5. **Alabama Jubilee**

Wayne Henderson with Linda and David Lay. This is a tune from minstrelsy, now most often played as a fiddle tune or as a show item.

### 6. **Walking Mama**

(Cephas & McQuaid, *J. Cephas Music*) John Cephas, lead vocal and guitar, Phil Wiggins, harmonica and vocal. John and Mike's salute to wiggle.

### 7. **Prison Blues**

(Skip James, *Wynwood Music*) John Cephas, vocal and guitar, Phil Wiggins, harmonica. A chain gang song, "Old Sue and Ben" were the lead team of horses. The monotony of jail food seems to have troubled Skip.

### 8. **John Henry**

John Cephas, vocal; Eddie Pennington, guitar; Johnny Bellar, bass; Phil Wiggins, harmonica.

### 9. **Lost John**

Eddie Pennington, vocal and guitar.

### 10. **Dark As A Dungeon**

(Merle Travis, *Unichappel Inc.*) Eddie Pennington, guitar and lead vocal, Linda Lay, bass and vocal, Johnny Bellar, resophonic guitar and vocal, David Lay, rhythm guitar and vocal, John Cephas, vocal. Eddie's father was a coal miner for 37 years, so this song has a special resonance for him.

### 11. **Eddie's Medley**

(September in the Rain, Al Dubin and Harry Warren, *Remick Music Corp.*; San Antonio Rose, James Robert Wills, *Bourne Co.*; St. Louis Blues, *PD*; Tiger Rag, *PD*) Eddie Pennington, electric guitar, Johnny Bellar, bass.

### 12. **I'll See You In My Dreams**

Eddie Pennington, electric guitar, Linda Lay, vocal, Johnny Bellar, bass.

### 13. **Northern Lights**

(Johnny Bellar, *BMI*) Johnny Bellar, resophonic guitar.

### 14. **Heaven**

(B. and H. McSpadden, *McSpadden Music*) Johnny Bellar, resophonic guitar and vocal, Linda Lay, vocal and bass, David Lay, rhythm guitar.

### 15. **Aloha Oe**

Johnny Bellar, lap steel, David Lay, rhythm guitar, Linda Lay, bass.

### 16. **Sweet Dreams**

(Don Gibson, *Acuff Rose*) Johnny Bellar, lap steel, Linda Lay, vocal and bass, David Lay, rhythm guitar.

### 17. **Guitar Rag**

Johnny Bellar, resophonic guitar; Wayne Henderson, guitar; John Cephas, guitar; Eddie Pennington, electric guitar; Phil Wiggins, harmonica; Linda Lay, bass; David Lay, rhythm guitar.

### 18. **Where The Roses Never Fade**

(Jim and Jack Elsie, Stamps-Baxter Music, *BMI*) Eddie Pennington, guitar; Johnny Bellar, vocal lead; John Cephas, vocal bass; David Lay, baritone; Linda Lay, alto.



**Produced by**  
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and Segrid Pearson

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**Recording**  
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**Mastering**  
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**Liner Notes**  
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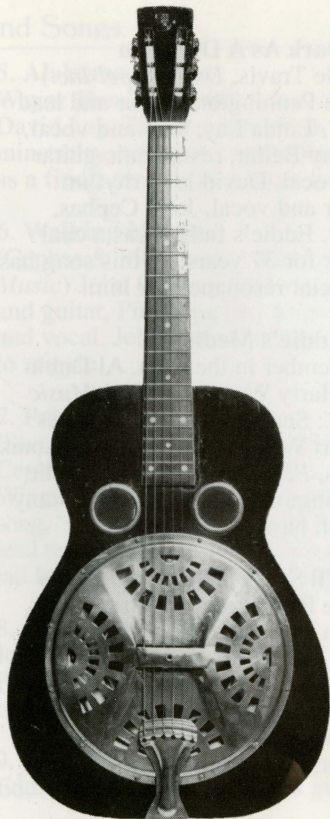
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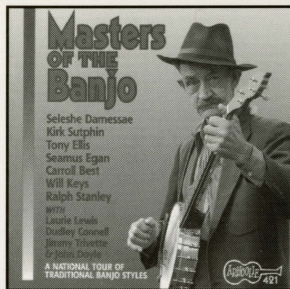
**Many thanks to**  
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Cephas and Wiggins appear  
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# Masters of the Steel String Guitar

**A legendary National tour recorded in live performance.**

- 1. I DON'T LOVE NOBODY:** Wayne Henderson, lead, with Linda Lay, bass, and David Lay, rhythm.
- 2. CANNONBALL BLUES:** Wayne Henderson with Linda and David Lay.
- 3. A COAT OF MANY COLORS:** Linda Lay, vocal with Wayne Henderson and David Lay.
- 4. CARTER FAMILY MEDLEY:** Wayne Henderson with Linda and David Lay.
- 5. ALABAMA JUBILEE:** Wayne Henderson with Linda and David Lay.
- 6. WALKING MAMA:** John Cephas, lead vocal and guitar, Phil Wiggins, harmonica and vocal.
- 7. PRISON BLUES:** John Cephas, vocal and guitar, Phil Wiggins, harmonica.
- 8. JOHN HENRY** John Cephas, vocal, Eddie Pennington, guitar, Johnny Bellar, bass, Phil Wiggins, harmonica.
- 9. LOST JOHN:** Eddie Pennington, vocal and guitar.
- 10. DARK AS A DUNGEON:** Eddie Pennington, guitar and lead vocal, Linda Lay, bass and vocal, Johnny Bellar, resophonic guitar and vocal, David Lay, rhythm guitar and vocal, John Cephas, vocal.
- 11. EDDIE'S MEDLEY:** Eddie Pennington, electric guitar, Johnny Bellar, bass.
- 12. I'LL SEE YOU IN MY DREAMS:** Eddie Pennington, electric guitar, Linda Lay, vocal, Johnny Bellar, bass.
- 13. NORTHERN LIGHTS:** Johnny Bellar, resophonic guitar.
- 14. HEAVEN:** Johnny Bellar, resophonic guitar and vocal, Linda Lay, vocal and bass, David Lay, rhythm guitar.
- 15. ALOHA OE:** Johnny Bellar, lap steel, David Lay, rhythm guitar, Linda Lay, bass.
- 16. SWEET DREAMS:** Johnny Bellar, lap steel, Linda Lay, vocal and bass, David Lay, rhythm guitar.
- 17. GUITAR RAG:** Johnny Bellar, resophonic guitar, Wayne Henderson, guitar; John Cephas, guitar, Eddie Pennington, electric guitar, Phil Wiggins, harmonica, Linda Lay, bass, David Lay, rhythm guitar.
- 18. WHERE THE ROSES NEVER FADE:** Eddie Pennington, guitar, Johnny Bellar, vocal lead, John Cephas, vocal bass, David Lay, baritone; Linda Lay, alto.



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