

# NORMAN BLAKE & RICH O'BRIEN

BE READY BOYS



APPALACHIA TO ABILENE

Sounds.

It's mostly about Sounds.

Sounds of a long time ago.

Sounds of our great-grandparents felling  
in Love.

Sounds of men in bib-overalls with a crock  
jug at a square dance...

Of Whippoorwills and Meadow Larks...

Of sad and silent-sounding old Bams...

Of a Saintly old Silver-haired Mother  
and a Lass with Raven hair

Sounds of rural America when America  
Ruralized!

Sounds of inngeence...

and Ireland

Sounds of Life... On this earth and in Heaven  
guitars and fiddles and Harps and Halos.

Tears and Laughter

Love For Life

Sounds of Music

Happy and sad

Morning and Twilight

Friendly and Warm

*Sounds made and shared by two  
musical pilgrims being pulled  
backwards in time*

*Rich O'Brien*  
*27<sup>th</sup> January, 1999*

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Recorded at the **Western Jubilee Warehouse Theater**, Colorado Springs, CO  
July 20, 21, 22 1998.

Executive Producers: **Scott O'Malley, Dane Scott & Don Edwards**

Produced by: **Norman Blake & Rich O'Brien**

Photos by: **Donald Kallaus**

Cover concept: **Scott O'Malley**

Cover and booklet design: **Joan Pelosi**

Recorded, edited and expertly massaged by: **Butch Hause**

Mixed by: **Butch Hause** and **John Macy** at **Delgany Street Studios**, Denver, CO.

Additional editing by: **Doug Brand**, Denver, CO

Mastered by: **Robert Vosgien** and **Pete Papageorges** at **Capitol Records**

Views expressed in this recording are shared and supported by management.

*Many thanks to Scott, Dane & Don, Butch, Don Kallaus, Kathleen Collins, Laraine MacLauchlan, Kathie O'Malley, Kathy Edwards, Mary "Mouse" O'Brien, Jesse Morris, "Deadline" Dumas, Vallejo's Mexican Restaurant, Waddie Mitchell, Cindy Walker & Cousin Bill Hearne, Karen Drozda, Richard Nevins, Lee Goldstein, and John Ramsey at the Folklore Center in Colorado Springs for fixing Rich's mandolin.*

Norman Blake plays a 1933 Gibson Century except where noted.

Rich O'Brien plays a 1936 Gibson L-00 except where noted.

Norman,  
The inspiration  
left in your  
wake is  
profound and  
ageless.  
You are  
truly an  
American  
treasure.  
Thanks for  
being mentor  
and friend.  
Rich

RICH O'BRIEN



NORMAN BLAKE

Rich-  
RECORDING WITH YOU  
IN THAT OLD TIN  
WAREHOUSE IN  
COLORADO SPRINGS  
WILL ALWAYS BE  
ONE OF MY WARMEST  
MUSICAL MEMORIES.  
THANK YOU FOR THE  
LOVE AND RESPECT  
FOR THIS MUSIC  
THAT HAS BEEN OUR LIVES.

Norman

1. **Tennessee Wagoner** (*traditional*)  
NORMAN - 1919 Gibson GB string guitar banjo  
RICH - guitar
2. **Old Pal of Yesterday** (*W.S. Stevenson - Acuff Rose Music, Inc./BMI*)  
NORMAN - vocal, guitar  
RICH - guitar
3. **Texola Waltz** (*Nancy Blake - Blake and Blake Music/BMI*)  
NORMAN - guitar  
RICH - guitar
4. **When It's Lamplighting Time In The Valley** (*traditional*)  
RICH - vocal, guitar  
RICH - harmony vocal, guitar
5. **Bowling Green Rag** (*Norman Blake - Blake and Blake Music/BMI*)  
NORMAN - 1919 Gibson GB six string guitar banjo  
RICH - 1926 Gibson Mastertone six string
6. **Homestead on the Farm** (*A.P. Carter - APRS/BMI*)  
NORMAN - vocal, guitar  
RICH - harmony guitar, 1947 Epiphone Broadway Archtop
7. **Mexico** (*B. Bryant - Acuff Rose Music, Inc./BMI*)  
RICH - 1965 Gianinni Brazilian gut string  
NORMAN - guitar
8. **Going Home** (*Antonín Dvořák - traditional*)  
RICH - 1995 Martin M-36  
NORMAN - John Arnold guitar (Nancy Blake Special)
9. **Kentucky's Your Home** (*Norman Blake - Blake and Blake Music/BMI*)  
NORMAN - vocal, guitar  
RICH - guitar

10. **Under the Double Eagle** (*traditional*)  
NORMAN - guitar  
RICH - guitar
11. **Grandpa's Barn** (*Rich O'Brien - Texas Starway Music/BMI*)  
RICH - vocal, guitar,  
1918 Gibson A-2 mandolin  
NORMAN - violin, viola
12. **Seamus O'Brien** (*traditional*)  
NORMAN - guitar  
RICH - guitar
13. **Flop-Eared Mule** (*traditional*)  
NORMAN - guitar  
RICH - guitar  
DON EDWARDS - 1926 Gibson Mastertone  
six string
14. **A Maiden's Prayer** (*Bob Wills - Bourne Co.*)  
RICH - guitar  
NORMAN - guitar
15. **Callahan** (*traditional*)  
NORMAN - 1922 Gibson A-2 mandolin  
RICH - guitar
16. **Heavenly Sunlight** (*G.H. Cook, H.J. Zellej - Stamps Baxter Music/BMI*)  
NORMAN - vocal,  
1919 Gibson GB six string guitar banjo  
RICH - harmony vocal, guitar

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# APPALACHIA TO ABILENE:

The joy of traveling is who you meet along the way. Two wandering musicians converge in the Rocky Mountains. One is a troubadour from the southern-most reaches of the Appalachian range. He's quick to share a wealth of songs and stories about his life and home. His fellow traveler, whose craft is flavored with the multiple cultures found in Texas., is a man in search of cooler weather and good water. For three days these new friends share fine music, great pickin' and good humor. For those not lucky enough to pass by, we've captured the moment in time and space, so sit down, relax and enjoy the camaraderie.

WESTERN JUBILEE RECORDING COMPANY, LLC

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1. **TENNESSEE WAGONER** 3:20
2. **OLD PAL OF YESTERDAY** 4:31
3. **TEXOLA WALTZ** 2:23
4. **WHEN IT'S LAMPLIGHTING** 3:36  
**TIME IN THE VALLEY**
5. **BOWLING GREEN RAG** 2:32
6. **HOMESTEAD ON THE FARM** 3:29
7. **MEXICO** 2:25
8. **GOING HOME** 3:39
9. **KENTUCKY'S YOUR HOME** 3:13
10. **UNDER THE DOUBLE EAGLE** 4:08
11. **GRANDPA'S BARN** 4:25
12. **SEAMUS O'BRIEN** 3:44
13. **FLOP-EARED MULE** 4:05
14. **A MAIDEN'S PRAYER** 3:31
15. **CALLAHAN** 2:12
16. **HEAVENLY SUNLIGHT** 3:45



APPALACHIA TO ABILENE



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BE READY BOYS

BLAKE &amp; O'BRIEN



Five-time Grammy nominee Norman Blake and National Cowboy Hall of Fame Wrangler Award winner Rich O'Brien blend their unique styles in this collection of instrumental and old-time country songs.



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BLAKE &amp; O'BRIEN

BE READY BOYS

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