Sacred Steel

The Steel Guitar Tradition of the House of God Churches

AFV DVD 203
55 min. - Color
THE ARHOOLIE FOUNDATION PRESENTS

SACRED STEEL

FEATURING

Elder Maurice “Ted” Beard, the Campbell Brothers with Katie Jackson, Calvin Cooke, Willie Eason, Elder Aubrey Ghent, Rev. Glenn Lee, Robert Randolph, historic video footage of Henry Nelson, and more....

In the late 1930’s musicians of the House of God Keith Dominion Holiness-Pentecostal Church began playing their worship music on electric steel guitars. Taking the words from Psalm 150:4 “praise Him with stringed instruments” and Psalm 149:3 “let them praise His name in the dance,” the guitarist developed unique styles, tunings, repertoires, and techniques.

Filmed on location in several churches, Sacred Steel traces the development of this tradition. Through interviews, performances, and historic footage, Sacred Steel will move the body and spirit as well as educate.

“Sacred Steel was the most exciting roots music to emerge at the end of the 20th century, and this video is the next best thing to actually being in the church with the musicians.” – Geoffrey Himes, music journalist for the Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, and others.

“...unless you visited a House of God church, it was hard to imagine the gripping power this phenomena yields. Until now, that is.” – Dan Willging, Dirty Linen.

Director: Robert L. Stone
Produced by: Chris Strachwitz – Arhoolie Foundation, & Alan Govenar – Documentary Arts Inc.
Running time: 55 minutes

Front Cover Photos:
- top left - Darick Campbell • top right - Robert Randolph • center - the late Rev. Glenn Lee, in whose memory we dedicate this video • bottom left - Elder Maurice “Ted” Beard • bottom right - Calvin Cooke
- Center front cover photo and back photos © by Chris Strachwitz. Others are taken from the video.

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