

The Banjo of **Ralph Stanley**

from Old-Time to Bluegrass

With the
Clinch Mountain Boys

Hosted by
Mike Seeger

DVD
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VIDEO

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Ralph Stanley, one of the pioneers of bluegrass banjo, comes from a musical family with a long and rich tradition rooted in the mountains of southwestern Virginia. His music has remained vital throughout four-and-a-half decades of performing and recording, first with his late brother Carter and then as leader of the Clinch Mountain Boys. Ralph was inducted into the Bluegrass Hall of Fame in 1992, holds the Living Legend award from the Library of Congress and the Traditional American Music award from the National Endowment for the Humanities. His powerful singing was prominent in the hit film and album "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" and the subsequent *Down From The Mountain Tour*.

With the Clinch Mountain Boys
Hosted by Mike Seeger
90 minutes
Tab enclosed

This rare session with one of the giants of bluegrass and old-time music is a must for banjo players and fans alike.

Ralph Stanley demonstrates the banjo styles and musical brilliance for which he is justly famous. Starting with traditional clawhammer tunes (*Shout Little Lullie, Little Birdie, Cripple Creek* and *Cuttin' the Combread*), he teaches a variety of ways to up-pick and frail the banjo.

Moving into his renowned three-finger bluegrass picking, Ralph breaks down Stanley favorites *Little Maggie, Dickenson County Breakdown, Clinch Mountain Backstep, Train 45* and *Hard Times*.

In conversations with long-time friend and fellow musician Mike Seeger, Ralph discusses his background, early influences, equipment and other subjects. He plays wonderful old-time duets with his long-time fiddler, the late Curly Ray Cline, and fronts full-band performances of some of his best-loved tunes, backed up by the Clinch Mountain Boys: *Man of Constant Sorrow, How Mountain Girls Can Love, Room at the Top of the Stairs, Worried Man Blues* and more.

Produced by Smithsonian/Folkways and Homespun Video

U.S. \$29.95

ISBN 1-59773-085-8



HL00641906

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