

Folksinger
Michael Johnathon's



Newsletter & Community Journal

WoodSongs Inc - PO Box 200
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“To affect the quality of the day,
that is the highest of arts.”

Henry David Thoreau

“If art is to nourish the roots of our culture, society must
set the artist free to follow his vision wherever it takes him.
We must never forget Art is a form of Truth.”

John F. Kennedy

Mark your Calenders!

2017

WoodSongs Front Porch Association
3rd Annual Gathering of

SongFarmers

Music Festival & Member Conference
It's Finger Picking Good!

October 13 & 14, 2017

Historic Shaker Village in Kentucky

Find details at SongFarmers.org

Imagine a musical Gathering of SongFarmers, musicians, artists, writers, poets, families and fans in a rustic autumn setting full of music, picking jams, stories and great food with workshops, showcases, mentor sessions, kids & family stages, lectures and more.

GET 5 FREE TICKETS TO THE GATHERING

Details on SongFarmers.org



Michael Johnathon

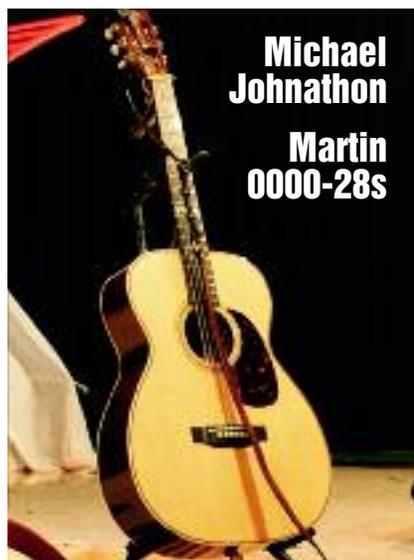
*"We need a Front Porch
'round the world ..."*

Song Farmer

Concert Tour



To book MJ in concert call:
Loretta Sawyer, agent
Email: writelor@aol.com
Phone: 312-391-7605



**Michael
Johnathon**
**Martin
0000-28s**

Pick it, Play it, Performs it ...

Song Farmers BLUES

Learn the simple, front porch anthem "SongFarmers Blues"

Make a simple recording of it and email us your MP3 ... we will post your version on our website. Visit SongFarmers.org for details, lyric and chord sheets and MJ's version.

Michael Johnathon signature model Martin 0000-28s is a finger picking canon, a custom designed, rare 12 fret 0000 with slot head Waverly tuners. The bass tones are huge and golden, the trebles are ringing and silver. It features herringbone trim, Sitka Spruce top and East Indian Rosewood sides and bottom, the WoodSongs logo is inlayed on the 9th fret. The exclusive retailer for worldwide sales is Bob Willcutt.

WillcuttGuitars.com
MichaelJohnathon.com



THE DREAM ALBUM: The title track is a song about the earth at peace. It started as a simple song, but quickly became one of the largest folk music recording events in history. **The Dream** features a 61-piece symphony orchestra, a band of Grammy winning musicians plus children's choirs in four languages: English, French, Spanish and Russian.

"As I thought about it, the universal need for Peace in this world had to sound as grand as the universe itself."

More than just a CD release, Johnathon is offering **The Dream** with lesson plans to teachers and home school families, **free of charge**, written for middle, high and college level students and designed to encourage a deep conversation about the earth, events, their life and what they see happening around them.

"I think we are all tired of the fighting," says Michael. "Recording The Dream is one of the most difficult, gut wrenching projects I ever got involved with. I hope it will create a conversation about peace at a time of such anger."

MichaelJohnathon/The-Dream WoodSongs.com/Classroom



Folksinger

Michael Johnathon's



Old-Time Radio Hour



WoodSongs is a live audience, roots music performance & conversation public radio & TV broadcast
Affiliate information WoodSongs.com or email radio@woodsongs.com



Join Folk-Book.com

It's a new **Arts & Music social media site** with no ads, no ad links and guaranteed 100% of your friends and fans will see your posts, pictures, concert notices, songs and more. **Folk-Book members watch the live WoodSongs production every Monday evening for FREE.** Only \$5.95 total for a LIFETIME membership, no other charges or ad-ons. Folk-Book.com

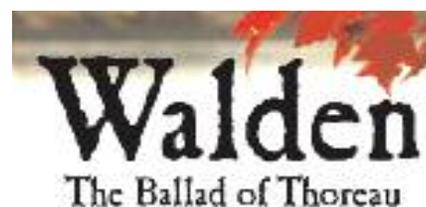


The **WFPA** has launched a global, grassroots listserv to encourage conversation among the artists, writers, poets and dreamers. Sign up for the **FREE SongFarmers-L** list serve and be part of the global front porch conversation. Discuss art, dreams, writing, community building, music, instruments, songs, touring, projects, ... bluegrass, folk, old time, blues and more all welcome. SongFarmer.org



Perform the Walden Play:

Michael Johnathon's theatrical play *Walden: The Ballad of Thoreau* is now available as a **DVD Gift Set** and includes the full length album of Earth Songs as well. The dramatic and often funny play about the final two days Henry David Thoreau spent in his cabin before leaving Walden Pond was filmed in a beautiful theatre in front of 1000 fans. The one set, two act, four character play script is **FREE** and available to any high school, college or community theatre. WaldenPlay.com



Start a SongFarmer Music Chapter

Start a SongFarmers music club on your front porch, your living room, where ever folks can gather. This is a great **FREE** project for the "front porch" minded musicians who simply love to gather their friends and community and pick. SongFarmer.org



Teachers & Home School Families:

Select public TV broadcasts of WoodSongs have been edited into 25 minute classroom segments with complete lesson plans and available **FREE** to home school families, middle and high schools as well as colleges. Introduce your students to the banjo with Bela Fleck, the guitar with Tommy Emmanuel, American jazz with the Preservation Hall Jazz Band and so much more. Made possible by the members of the WFPA.



[Visit the CLASSROOM page of WoodSongs.com](http://WoodSongs.com)

Let's make a Motion Picture ... how hard can it Be?



Script and Concept by Michael Johnathon

The incredible, true story of Alice Lloyd who moved from Boston to the Appalachian hills of Kentucky in 1916. Mountain man Abisha Johnson had a dream she would teach his children to read and, barefoot and sick, crossed two mountains in a snow storm and begged her to move to Caney Creek. She was shot at, burned down, crippled and determined. She fought hard until finally, in 1955, her little school was saved on national television during NBC's show *This Is Your Life*. This is an incredible American story of an amazing woman.

[Visit CaneyCreekMovie.com](http://CaneyCreekMovie.com) for investor information

The WoodSongs Front Porch Association present the third annual



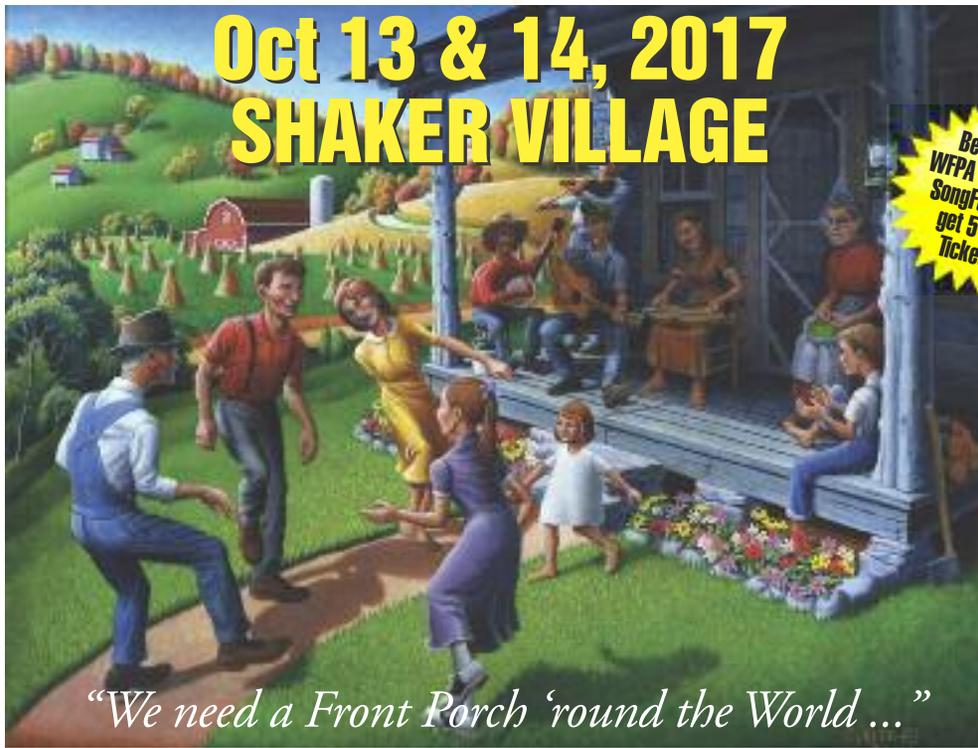
Gathering of SongFarmers

Music Festival  Pickin' Party
and Member Conference

Oct 13 & 14, 2017
SHAKER VILLAGE

Become a
WFPA Member:
SongFarmers
get 5 FREE
Tickets*

painting by Walt Curlee, WaltCurleeArt.com



"We need a Front Porch 'round the World ..."

Concerts, Music Jams, Picking Sessions, Lectures,
Work Shops, Seedling Stage, Films and more

plus a great big, old fashioned, Saturday Night community

BARN DANCE

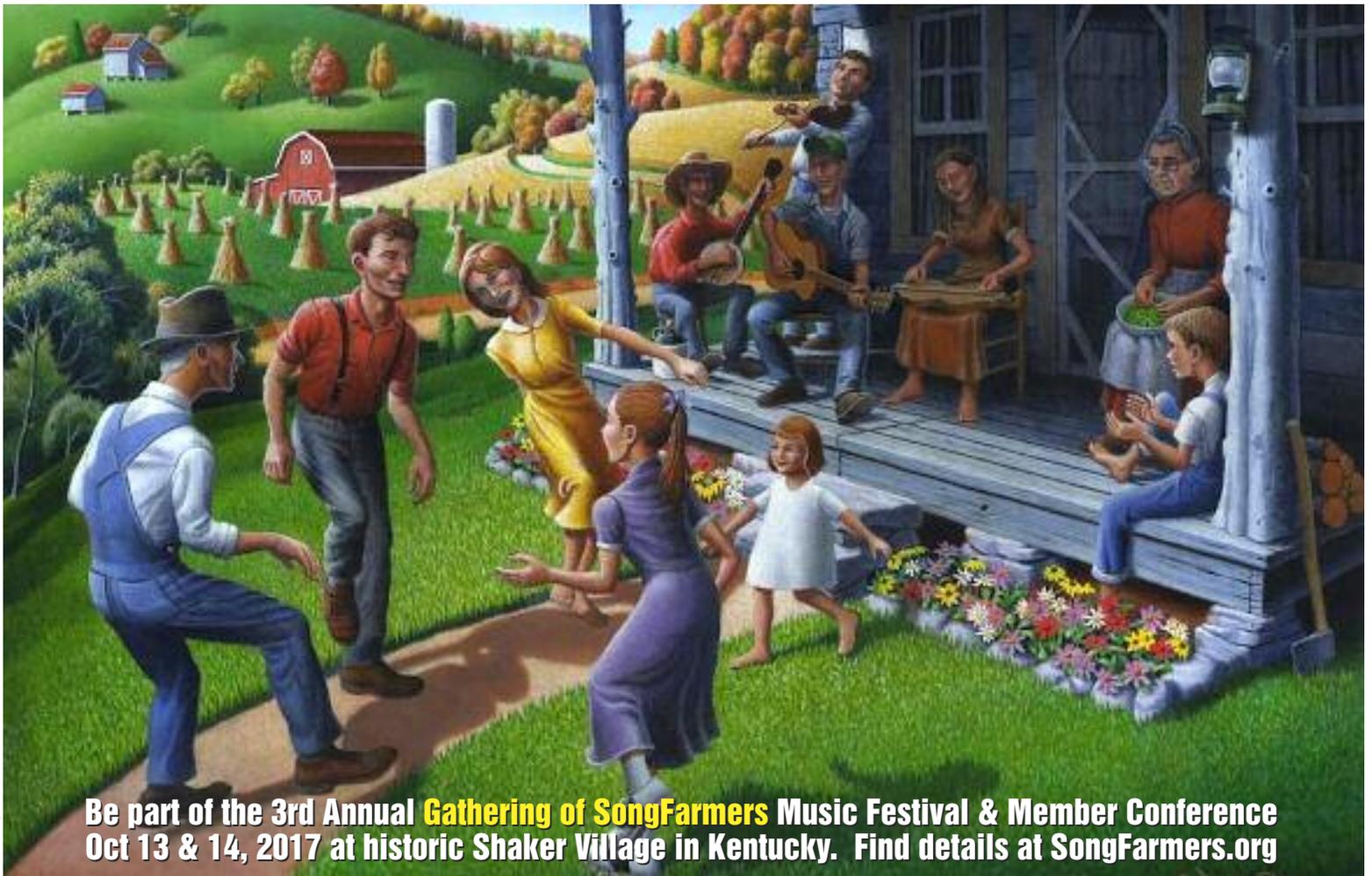
TICKET INFO

SONGFARMERS.org
or call 859-255-5700

The WoodSongs Front Porch Association, the Gathering, the School Programs and SongFarmer Music Clubs are supported by



* see our website **SongFarmers.org** for details



Be part of the 3rd Annual **Gathering of SongFarmers** Music Festival & Member Conference Oct 13 & 14, 2017 at historic Shaker Village in Kentucky. Find details at SongFarmers.org

Musicians, Writers, Poets, Performers, SongFarmers, Fans & Families!

A Banjo is a SongFarmer's Plow.

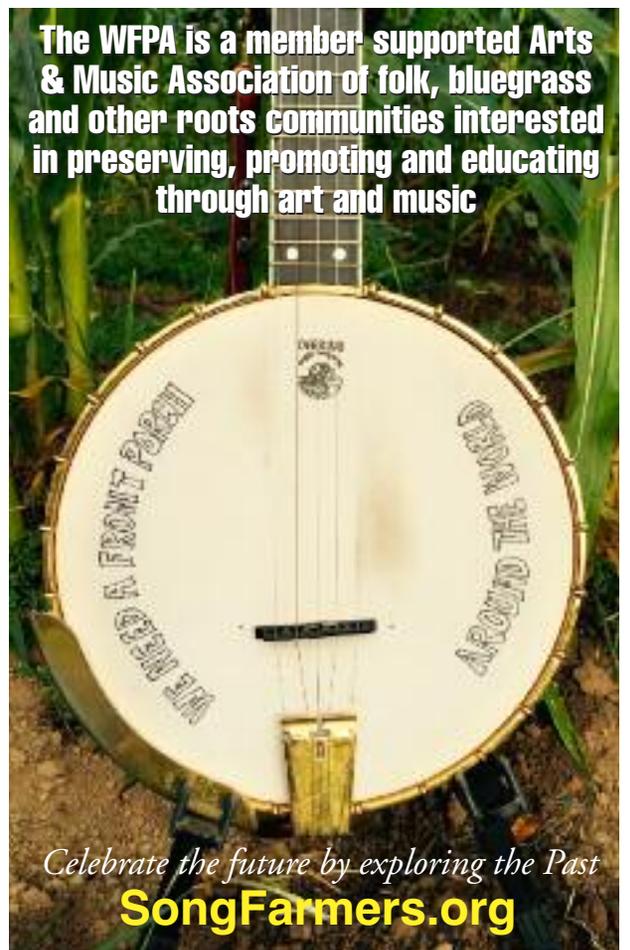
So is a guitar, fiddle or mandolin. And your singing voice.

The **WoodSongs Front Porch Association** (WFPA) is an international association of front porch-minded musicians, artists, and dreamers. We call our members "**SongFarmers.**"

A "SongFarmer" is any artist who uses music to make their families, their hometowns, their careers better. Why be consumed with an industry that technically doesn't exist anymore? Music does not have to be your livelihood to be a powerful, amazing part of your life. **Let's do something better!**

JOIN THE WFPA: our mission is to gather the global community of front porch minded musicians, bring roots music education into schools free of charge, and enhance the good works of the SongFarmer community of artists and musicians. Your annual \$25 membership in the WFPA supports the GATHERING, our CLASSROOM projects and worldwide SongFarmers CHAPTERS. Join us, **become a SongFarmer** and help restore the simple love of music back into your hometown, schools and front porches around the world.

Questions? Call **859-255-5700**, email WFPA@WoodSongs.com or join online SongFarmers.org



The WFPA is a member supported Arts & Music Association of folk, bluegrass and other roots communities interested in preserving, promoting and educating through art and music

Celebrate the future by exploring the Past
SongFarmers.org

Michael's 26 Commandements for Artists & Musicians

So I have learned ...

- A** Art is a life mission, not a vocation.
- B** Music must be a major part of your life before it can become your livelihood.
- C** If the audience doesn't respond, take a hint and do something musically different.
- D** Doing something different doesn't mean you are giving up on a dream; it means you are stepping out of the way of an oncoming train.
- E** Be original; if you are copying something already successful you are being annoying.
- F** If you are original ... you are probably being annoying.
- G** Love is the greatest transaction of the arts; don't focus on money.
- H** The audience is the greatest benefactor of the arts; show them love and they will show you the money.
- I** Be at peace with failure; it is a stepping stone to success.
- J** Success is an illusion and has nothing to do with real life.
- K** Being popular is a drug; it often means you have simply achieved the lowest common denominator and isn't necessarily something you should be proud of.
- L** Your instrument is an extension of your heart, not your hands.
- M** Critics are incapable of achieving what they are judging. Ignore them.
- N** Being in tune is more important than playing perfectly.
- O** Never edit-in the sound of an audience that didn't show up. It's called "lying."
- P** Own your dream; others will support anything they are not liable for.
- Q** Be honest; be fair; be motivated; be patient. Each is a building block that will eventually house your dream.
- R** Your dream is a carpet of stars floating in the universe before you; keep your carpet clean.
- S** Forgiving someone's mistake will make them more loyal to you.
- T** The audience is the greatest benefactor of the arts; view them as hearts, not wallets.
- U** Invest in yourself; if you don't no one else will want to, either.
- V** Accept the true size of your audience; sometimes they are simply on your front porch or living room couch. Don't be ashamed of their location.
- W** Be humble and truthful with yourself; accept the true reach of your influence; being effective in your hometown is better than being a non-existent ghost in the national consciousness.
- X** Your CD is your business card ... give it freely.
- Y** You get paid if you develop an audience; if you don't have an audience, don't complain if you aren't getting paid.
- Z** "Free" works. Use it wisely.

mj, michael@woodsongs.com

IT'S A FACT: Artists who present other Artists become better Artists



Start Your Own Hometown, Community Run Concert Series

WoodSongs Coffeehouse



Present real concerts in your hometown - even your school - by starting a WoodSongs Coffeehouse. It can be as intimate as your living room, as grand as a small theatre. Use a school basement, existing club or even a public library. It's fun, it's needed ... and we will help you! Download PDF copy of the **FREE WS Coffeehouse HOW-TO Manual** and more ... details at **WoodSongs.com**

Michael Johnathon

Michael is a prolific, energetic and passionate American folksinger, concert performer, author and songwriter. He created and hosts the worldwide broadcast of the *WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour* with a radio audience with over a million listeners each week on over 500 public radio stations, plus PBS-TV coast-to-coast and American Forces Radio Network in 173 nations.

His play *Walden: The Ballad of Thoreau* has over 8,000 registered performances in 42 countries and translated into four languages. He moved from upstate New York to the Appalachian hamlet of Mousie, KY to roam the mountains with his guitar and banjo. Michael experienced hundreds of front porch hootenannies where folks would pull out their banjos and fiddles, sit on their front porches with him and play the old songs that their grandparents taught them.

Billboard Magazine headlined him as an "UnSung Hero." He has been featured on CNN, TNN, CMT, AP, Headline News, NPR, Bravo and the BBC. He lives in a log cabin on a hill outside of Lexington, Ky with his wife Melissa and family.



"Michael Johnathon is the last of a dying breed of musicians who takes their craft so much to heart as to commit the entirety of their lives to the pursuit of achieving musical purity." Besidell Music Reviews

"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

CHECK
Each Item
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WOODSONGS Album re-release (2017)



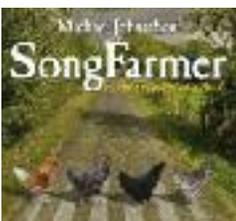
This is the **song** that begat the **album** that begat the **book** that inspired the **idea** that became the national **radio broadcast** that turned itself into a **Public TV** series and found a proactive **audience** that started **WoodSongs Coffeehouses** around the world that brought the **kids** onto the stage and formed the **classroom** program that showed how important the "**front porch**" is and became the national association of **SongFarmers**. Special guests include Odetta, Jean Ritchie, JD Crowe and Homer Ledford. **This CD is included in the book WoodSongs I**



The DREAM Album (2016)



The title song is dramatic composition about the **EARTH AT PEACE** recorded with four choirs in English, French, Spanish and Russian plus a **full 61-piece symphony**. The song **Techno-Folk** is a powerful, banjo driven folk-rock-symphony that goes from the Vietnam War to Star Wars in 3-minutes. Other songs include **America, BlueHighways** and live banjo song **Mousie HiWay**



The SONGFARMER iPhone Album (2016)



This is the first national album release to be recorded as a high quality, studio level album **on an iPhone**. Michael Johnathon at his simple, front porch best with his Martin guitar and long neck Vega banjo. The album has that relaxed comfortable feel of sitting on a porch watching the sun go down. Songs like **Sunday Afternoon, Little Maggie, Gun, Sunrise, Autumn Song** and more.



LOOKING GLASS The Live Album (2016)



Michael's live concert album, recorded in theaters from Arkansas to Dublin, Ireland. This is the artist on stage, mostly solo but in front of thousands of fans with his Martin guitar, long neck banjo and wife Melissa performing songs like **Flowers, The Coin, Summertime, Aura Lee, Shady Grove, Front Porch**, the tongue-in-cheek **Garden Girl, Ban-JOKES** and more.



WOODY GUTHRIE OPERA Album (2016)



Can a folksinger compose and arrange a full, traditional opera with full orchestration? **How hard can it be?** Well, here it is, the arias of the original Woody Guthrie Opera, recorded with a 34-piece symphony and real opera singers ... about the day Woody Guthrie wrote his famous ballad, *This Land is Your Land*. Watch clips of the recording and more online: **WoodyGuthrieOpera.com**

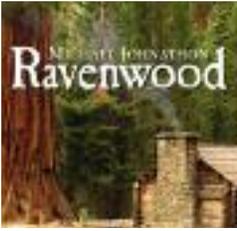
To order any of Michael Johnathon's albums, books, the Walden Play and more visit: **MichaelJohnathon.com**

or call PoetMan Records USA 859-255-5700 M-F 10am-5PM EDT or email: **radio@woodsongs.com**



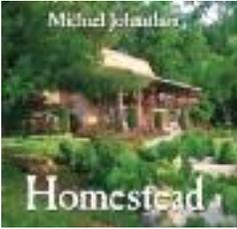
FRONT PORCH Album

This is a 10 song collection of songs about the literal, emotional & global “front porch.” It is a simple, acoustic album of banjos, mandolins, guitars & string quartets. Studio cuts include the title song and many others, live tracks include the amazing folk rendition of the classical piece **Pachelbel’s Canon**. The project includes **Rob Ickes, JP Pennington, Raymond McLain** and others. It is already considered one of the finest folk albums released.



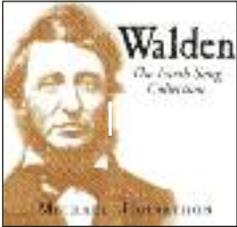
RAVENWOOD Album

An acoustic album recorded with majestic fury. Beginning with **Flowers** and a trio of flutes into the powerhouse of **Cars**, the gracefully live performance of **Winter Song** with a full string section to the Beatle-esque rendering of the traditional song **Darlin’ Corey**, Michael’s re-interpretation of the Jerry Jeff Walker tune **Ballad of Bojangles** featuring the great John McEuen, the complex arrangement of the bluegrass standard **East Virginia Blues** with guest artists Sam Bush and Rob Ickes to the tender emotions of the title cut **Ravenwood**, this is one of Michael’s finest recording.



HOMESTEAD Album

This album celebrates the emotions of home in all its musical colors. Beginning with the poetic and tender **Winter’s Eve** the album soars in content from the simple to the complex. The Homestead album include support from banjo great **JD Crowe** and mandolin master **Sam Bush** plus fellow New Grass Revival member **John Cowan**. The *Crimson Rose Trilogy* alone is a recording event like no other and includes IBMA Mandolin Player of the Year **Ronnie McCoury**. **This CD is included in the book WoodSongs II**

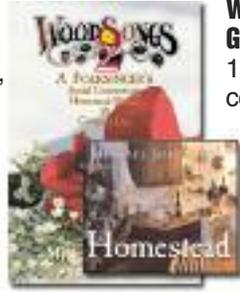


WALDEN: The Earth Song Collection Album

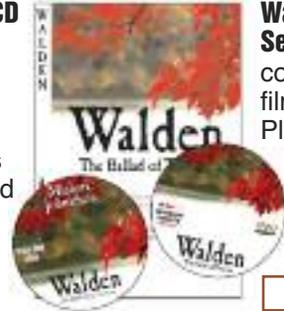
This album is MJ’s loving tribute to **Henry David Thoreau**. Gently textured with flutes and string sections, Michael’s guitar and banjo rings clean and true with precise simplicity. Each song reflects a special aspect of Henry’s celebrated life and work. *In The Woods* is a genuine environmental classic. The 10-song project was recorded as a compliment to the highly successful Walden Play. **This CD is included in the WALDEN DVD/CD Gift Set**



WoodSongs I Book & CD Gift Set ... MJ’s first 176 page book full of stories, songs, front porch musings and includes the entire WoodSongs album



WoodSongs II Book & CD Gift Set ... The second 176 page book social commentaries, stories, the *Crimson Rose* feature and includes the entire Homestead album



Walden DVD/CD Gift Set ... includes the complete public TV film of the Walden Play, special features and the entire Walden album

Each album is \$10. FOUR ALBUMS FOR \$20, Walden DVD/CD Gift Set, WoodSongs I and II Book/CD Gift Set \$20 each.

All items are POST PAID if ordering in the USA direct from PoetMan Records. Call **859-255-5700** for credit card orders, email a PayPal payment to **radio@woodsongs.com** or by check payable to: PoetMan Records USA, PO Box 200, Lexington, KY 40588.

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