

## **Steve and Ruth Smith**

### ***Acoustic Americana Music*** *with Celtic & Appalachian Roots*

Steve and Ruth Smith, from the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, play a unique blend of Appalachian Americana music featuring hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer, guitar, and old-time banjo. Steve and Ruth play and sing the music reminiscent of the old homeplace where family, love, faith, and sense of place are the foundations of heritage and traditions.

Steve and Ruth have been playing music together for over 40 years. From their home in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, they have performed their Appalachian Americana music extensively in the U.S. from North Carolina to Hawaii and abroad in Scotland, England, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Tonga, and Canada.

A native North Carolinian, Ruth studied music at the University of Illinois and composes music especially for the hammered dulcimer. Her compositions have been featured on NPR's All Songs Considered, Sirius XM satellite radio, PBS TV "Song of the Mountains" and in Dulcimer Players News magazine. Dirty Linen Folk & World Music Magazine says "Ruth Smith's touch on the hammered dulcimer is absolutely magical, with exquisite phrasing, highlighting the range of the instrument especially on her own pieces." She teaches hammered and Appalachian mountain dulcimer workshops at festivals and folk schools throughout the country and is the author of *From Heart to Hands* and *Touch of Grace*, two popular hammered dulcimer instructional books of her compositions and arrangements. Ruth is also accomplished in traditional Appalachian fiber arts, including weaving and spinning.

Steve, an ASCAP award-winning songwriter, adds fingerstyle guitar, clawhammer and North Carolina up-picking styles banjo, and vocals to the duo. Dulcimer Players News says, "He is a master storyteller and the perfect vocalist to convey the meaning of his lyrics. His songs stand out for their imagery and melodic strength . . . on par with John Denver's songs." Dirty Linen Folk & World Music Magazine says Steve Smith's accompaniment on guitar and clawhammer banjo provides "a traditional . . . rich, true sound" to their Appalachian Americana music. Steve has a Master's degree in Appalachian Studies from Appalachian State University with a major emphasis in Appalachian music and folklife, and is the recipient of the Cratis Williams Fellowship in Appalachian Studies. He teaches workshops nationally at festivals and folk school on guitar, clawhammer banjo, ukulele, recording, songwriting, copyrights & publishing, live sound reinforcement, and performing techniques.

Steve and Ruth perform annually at *MerleFest* and other major festivals nationwide, as well as being heard regularly on Sirius/XM Satellite Radio, Pandora, Spotify, Highlander Radio Networks, NPR, and acoustic music format radio stations around the U.S. Also, Steve and Ruth have been featured on NPR's *All Songs Considered* and *Thistle & Shamrock*, and *Dulcimer Players News* magazine.

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