

COUNTY SALES NEWSLETTER #345

OCTOBER 2018

www.countysales.com • 540-745-2001

County Sales P.O. Box 191 Floyd, VA 24091

COUNTY SALES IS BACK!

County Sales began in October, 1965 as a mail order company in New York City. It's founder Dave Freeman, started the business as an offshoot of County Records, a record company dedicated to preserving and celebrating authentic rural music of the South.

In 1974 Dave Freeman moved his family to Floyd County, Virginia and moved the business into the basement of the old Floyd Theatre on Talley's Alley in downtown Floyd, VA. It is here in Floyd, that Dave really carried out his vision for creating the world's largest catalog of bluegrass and old time recordings.

This location is located right behind the Floyd Country Store, a historic major venue on the Crooked Road Heritage Music Trail and a consistent partner in the celebration and promotion of good old time and bluegrass music. It is the proximity of County Sales and Floyd Country Store which brought Dave and I together to discuss the future of County Sales.

After several years of conversation we came to an agreement that County Sales, even in the day and age of streaming services and digital downloads, should not go away. It holds an important place in the hearts of thousands of music lovers and out of pure respect for the music, the musicians, Dave Freeman and others that worked tirelessly to produce some of the most important recordings in American music, County Sales should and will continue into the future!

We will continue to provide insights into the latest releases from the bluegrass and old time musicians around the world. We will also dig into the archives and bring forward some of the important recordings of the past. It is with excitement and gratitude that I launch this next chapter of County Sales. Many thanks to Dave Freeman for believing in me and tapping me to move this forward. Thanks to all the customers who made pilgrimages to County Sales and added to the rich history and stories about our love for this music in Floyd, Virginia, the United States and throughout the world! And thanks to the musicians who have for so long been what makes the world an interesting place to exist. In the day and age of streaming services, just like back in the day when the record labels did not show any interest in old time and bluegrass music, we have to give our vote and show up for the music makers. Show that you love and respect the music makers by showing up to concerts and festivals and by purchasing their recordings. We will be working with all of the labels who are dedicated to old time and bluegrass as well as the musicians themselves.

We hope to launch our County Sales record store (right by the Floyd County Store) in the fall of 2018, please come visit us. Otherwise, we hope our new website, newsletters and podcast will bring the music to you, wherever you are! Happy listening!



Dylan Locke

Purchase Amount	\$4.00- \$29.00	\$30.00-\$59.00	\$60.00-\$139.00	\$140.00-\$199.00	Over \$200.00
U.S. Media Mail	\$3.50	\$5.00	\$7.00	\$8.00	\$9.50
U.S. Priority Mail	\$5.50	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$13.00	\$15.00

International/Canadian orders will be charged exact shipping costs based on weight of the order.

ALL CUSTOMERS ARE CHARGED A \$1.50 HANDLING FEE. ALL VIRGINIA ORDERS ADD 5.3% SALES TAX.

For special expedited rates (FED EX, UPS, NEXT DAY, etc.) please call or fax us for cost and authorization.

Phone: 540-745-2001 • Minimum credit card order is \$25.00

SPECIAL GRAND RE-OPENING PRICING

To celebrate the re-opening of County Sales, we're offering a special discount on County and Rebel CDs in October. Until the end of the month, we are offering \$1.50 off any County or Rebel item in stock! Take advantage of this pricing while it lasts. We're also maintaining our "Buy 6, Get 1 Free" deal. Buy any 6 titles, and choose one County/Rebel CD (\$15 value or less) free! For online orders, use code "CS345."

NEW ALBUM RELEASES



Dave Adkins Right or Wrong MFR-180309



Junior Sisk Brand New Shade of Blue MFR-180608



Kristy Cox Ricochet MFR-180119



Claybank No Escape MFR-180427



Rhonda Vincent Bluegrass Legends UM-013



The Churchmen God Holds Tomorrow MFR-170901



Highland Travelers The Little Tennessee MFR-180511



Sideline Front and Center MH-1705



Balsam Range Mountain Overture MH-1716



Donna Ulisse Breakin' Easy MH-1693



NewTown
Old World
MH-1720



Special Consensus Rivers and Roads COMP-4709



Old Salt Union Old Salt Union COMP-4693



Becky Buller Crepe Paper Heart DSR-201801



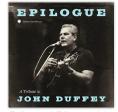
David Davis & Warrior River Boys Songs of Charlie Poole ROU-00347



Eddie Adcock Vintage Banjo Jam Patux-300



Al Jones/Billy Baker/Dee Gunter Just A Memory Patux-320



Epilogue- A Tribute to John Duffey SFW-40228



Lorrain Jordan & Carolina Road True Grass Again PRC-1219



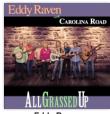
High Fidelity Hills And Home Reb-1864



Garrett Newton Band Young Heart Old Soul PRC-1204



Frank Newsome Gone Away With A Friend DIRT-0084



Eddy Raven w/Carolina Road All Grassed Up PRC-1207



Clay Hess Band Just Another Story PRC-1216

Now Available:

Featured New Release from The Earls of Leicester!



The long-awaited new record from one of the hottest bluegrass bands on the has just been released on Rounder Records! Hear Long Journey Home on the first episode of The County Sales Radio Hour Podcast, and order your copy at County Sales!

Congratulations to 2018 NEA Heritage Fellow: Eddie Bond!

One of our favorite fiddlers, Eddie Bond received some well deserved acknowledgement when he was awarded the NEA's National Heritage Fellowship! We can't think of a more deserving musician and person. Congrats Eddie! The New Ballards Branch Bogtrotters are one of the best Old Time bands around these parts. Pick up some of their music from County Sales!



NEW & RECENT RELEASES

Reviews provided by Art Menius (All albums \$13.50 unless otherwise marked)

Claire Lynch, North By South (COMP-4671)

Claire Lynch has worked and sung and earned a position as the preeminent female vocalist of her generation. Her voice works on bluegrass, folk, or country material and is fully another instrument in the ensemble. With seeming ease, she demonstrates



all her excellent qualities on this enchanting collection of songs by writers from her new home in Canada. Musicians include Bela Fleck, Jerry Douglas, Mark Schatz, Kenny Malone, David Grier and Stuart Duncan.

Lawson and Williams, *Chapter 3* (Mountain Home Music Company MH-1672) Two old pros from the Jimmy Martin school of bluegrass demonstrating why they have remained major figures for decades. Doyle Lawson and Paul Williams belie the years with

dead solid perfect harmonies. Three new compositions from Williams join songs pulled from writers ranging from Dolly Parton to Justin Tubb to the Louvin Brothers. Their rendition of the latter's "I Feel Better Now" is worth the price of the album.



The Lonesome River Band, *Mayhayley's House* (Mountain Home MH-1685) One of the first third generation bluegrass bands, the Lonesome River Band will soon be forty years old. In the early



1990s the LRB style matured, and Sammy Shelor has nurtured it ever since. One of their better lineups with Mike Hartgrove, Brandon Rickman, and Shelor explores music ranging from country to folk to the banjo-forward driving bluegrass that is the LRB hallmark.

The Lonesome River Band, *Bridging the Tradition* (Mountain Home MH-1650) LRB found their groove a long time ago as one of the bands that defined modern bluegrass. Mike Hartgrove, Brandon Rickman, and

Sammy Shelor continue to maintain that sound, on this set with drums augmenting their rhythm. Most of the material is new, yet they rip into Ralph Stanley's "Rock Bottom" with pulsating drive.



Mac Wiseman, I Sang the Song (Life of the Voice With a Heart) (Mountain Fever Records MFR170120)

Mountain Fever promises and delivers "an unprecedented album project" in I Sang the Song. On the one hand, it comprises an all-star tribute to Mac featuring John Prine, Alison Krauss, Jim Lauderdale, Sierra Hull, Shawn Camp, Junior Sisk, Ronnie Bowman, and other notables. On the other, this is Wiseman's autobiography told in ten new songs he co-wrote with producers Peter Cooper and Thomm Jutz, who spent nine weeks listening

to Mac recount his many stories. Finally, the album concludes with the great man singing a duet with Krauss on his second best known – and here most appropriate – bluegrass hit, "Tis Sweet to Be Remembered."



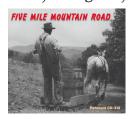
Steve Martin & Edie Brickell, So Familiar (ROU-37395)



Although Steve Martin's three finger and clawhammer banjo are featured prominently on almost all the tracks, this is a pop album that only moves into bluegrass territory when the Steep Canyon Rangers appear for "Another Round."

Five Mile Mountain Road, Five Mile Mountain Road (PATUX-315) A devotee of Clark Kessinger, Billy Hurt's confident and versatile (old-time, bluegrass,

western swing) fiddle leads the Five Mile Mountain Road quartet, which straddles the line between bluegrass and old-time. Seth Boyd handles both overhand and three-finger banjo. Good stuff.



See them live at the Floyd Country Store on New Year's Eve!

The Kevin Prater Band, All I Ever Wanted (PATUX-306) Solid and enjoyable hard bluegrass release from the veteran Kentucky mandolin and vocal sideman. The Kevin Prater Band mixes their bluegrass adaptations of classics like "House of Gold," Roll On Buddy,"



and "House of the Rising Sun"

- heavily influenced by Pete Corum, with contemporary writers like Mark Brinkman and the late Jerry Williamson and the daring choice "Lord Daniel" better known as "Matty Groves."

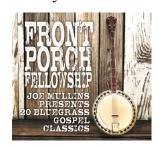
Tom Mindte & Mason Via, Tom Mindte & Mason Via (PATUX-312) Accomplished young guitarist Mason Via joins veteran, Duffey-influenced mandolinist Tom

Mindte for a delightful album. The pair use the diversity allowed by the brother duet format to move fluidly from old-time to bluegrass and back. Hot young clawhammer banjo player Victor Furtado and remarkable fiddler Nate Leath guest. Recommended.



Joe Mullins Presents 20 Bluegrass Gospel Classics, Front Porch Fellowship (Rebel REB-SN-2017)

Bandleader Joe Mullins, host of the syndicated Front Porch Fellowship radio show, Singing News, and Rebel Records have assembled an outstanding collection of mostly recent material. The twenty selections include



Ricky Skaggs, Ralph Stanley, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, the Primitive Quarter, Larry Sparks, Stanley Brothers, IIIrd Tyme Out, Rhonda Vincent, the Isaacs, and many more genuine stars. Best bluegrass gospel collection available.

Various Artists, Music from the Floyd Radio Show: The First 5 Years 2011 - 2015 (FCS-2015) Anna and Elizabeth hosted the five years documented here of the Floyd Radio Show. Mostly top notch old-time music with a bit of bluegrass, world, and gospel. Besides several Anna & Elizabeth selections, the live recordings include bluegrass legend Hershel Sizemore and such old-time luminaries as New

Ballards Branch Bogtrotters, Mac & Jenny Trayham, Black Twig Pickers, Alice Gerrard, and National Heritage Award winners Sheila Kay Adams and Eddie Bond. A must have collection for anyone who likes contemporary old-time.



Join us for The Floyd Radio Show: First Saturday of the month (Sept - May) at the Floyd Country Store



Summer Brooke & the Mountain Faith Band, The Sounds of Christmas" (Mountain Fever Records MFR171110) Sixteen familiar Christmas songs done in a fairly fresh way by a fast-rising group. The live album includes drums, piano, and pennywhistle.

The Price Sisters, The Price Sisters (Rebel REB-

CD-1860) Although the Price Sisters grew artistically in the almost two years until their hit A Heart Never

Knows album, this debut 7-song demonstrates release the traditional firepower that has turned heads. Killer version of "Get Up John" from Bill Monroe and Buzz Busby's "Lost." Recommended for any lover of traditional bluegrass.



Chris Hillman, Bidin' My Time (Rounder ROU-00249)

The fame and public acclaim of the Byrds, Flying Burrito Brothers, and Desert Rose Band aside, Chris Hillman has been turning out a series of enjoyable Americana and bluegrass albums for 35 years solo and with Herb Pedersen. The Tom Petty produced Bidin' My Time, one of the best, follows his familiar



pattern of mostly acoustic instruments with drums and the piano of Benmont Tench joined by electric guitar on four tracks. Several excellent Byrd covers and a couple of songs that are close to bluegrass.

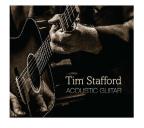
Various Artists, The Crooked Road's Mountains of Music Homecoming: The Live Concert Recordings (The

Crooked Road TCR-002) Southwestern Virginia's The Crooked Road is likely the most successful of the three major music trails in the South. This outstanding set consists of 2015 live recordings featuring bluegrass stars (the Seldom Scene, Blue Highway, Lonesome

River Band), traditional greats (Frank Newsome, New Ballards Branch Bogtrotters), a powerful newcomer (Amythyst Kiah), and a prominent 1960s bluegrass artist (Billy Baker). \$15.00



Tim Stafford, Acoustic Guitar (Hedge Drive Records HDR02) An exquisite collection of almost entirely original guitar pieces - except for one song closing the album - by the Blue Highway primary lead



vocalist. Highly recommended for anyone who likes modern sixstring playing. The closing song, "I Am America," is a call for unity that carefully avoids taking any side other than America's.

Cedar Hill, By Request: A 50 Year Tradition, Volume 1 (Nickeltown NR170515) Cedar Hill leader Frank Ray is one of three creators with Don Brown and Dean Webb of the Missouri mandolin style - borne of copying what they heard Bill Monroe play on the Opry without ever having seen him play. Cedar Hill, not to be confused with the Atlanta-based band of the same name, offers almost all original songs in

a traditional bluegrass settinginfluenced by the bass-heavy, trio and quartet vocal style so popular for the last 30 years. At their quite enjoyable best the band puts old ideas in new vessels to excellent effect.





Playing Claybank, Hard Forget (Rural Rhythm RUR-1137) On Playing Hard To Forget, Claybank demonstrates terrific playing, good harmonies and great song selections. With stronger lead singing, Claybank

Steve Martin & the Steep Canyon Rangers, The Long-Awaited Album (ROU-00267)

The mutually beneficial partnership between Martin and the Steeps has been the key factor in Martin's emergence as a serious banjo player and first-rate composer of banjo tunes. The Long-Awaited Album

is another strong outing featuring original songs and instrumentals by Martin with the superstar and Woody Platt trading lead vocals. Recommended for anyone who likes modern bluegrass or threefinger style banjo.



Northern Connection, Northern Connection (PATUX-291)

Second generation Baltimore bluegrass scene veterans, led by Frankie Short, Jr on vocals and guitar, Bobby Lundy on banjo, and bassman Brian Eldreth deliver an album razor-sharp traditional bluegrass.



Northern Connection mixes mostly classics with a few lesser known songs from the old days. The latter include an early composition, Del McCoury "Loggin' Man," written on a dare by the boss at his day job back in the day.

Blue Mafia, *Hanging Tree* (Pinecastle PRC1202)

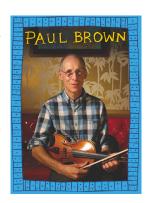
Blue Mafia has everything people like about contemporary bluegrass: more than one quality lead singer, great harmonies, solid musicianship, and

plenty of original songs. Hanging Tree also has everything people don't like about contemporary bluegrass: prominent bass, no high lonesome singing, and a certain sameness to the arrangements.



Paul Brown, Paul Brown (Old Time Tiki Parlor Recordings TIKI-011) Paul Brown might not be from Surry County, NC, but he has become one of the greatest living masters of the Round Peak

style of old-time music. He demonstrates that mastery on the 16 tunes found on both the CD and DVD in this package. Although he offers comments or hints, the DVD can be a great instructional tool with high definition video of Brown playing the tunes with close ups on both hands. CD/DVD \$18.00



Flatt Lonesome, Silence in These Walls (Mountain Home MH16892) One of the contemporary mainstream bluegrass bands able to achieve a distinctive sound, Flatt Lonesome enjoys a pair of strong singers and

songwriters in Kelsi and Paul Harrigill. On Silence in These Walls the sextet covers a lot of ground from pretty traditional to very modern bluegrass along with two songs that get very close to both Hank Sr. and contemporary country respectively.



See them live at the Floyd Country Store: Saturday, Dec. 8!

The Grascals, Before Breakfast (Mountain Home MH16872) The Grascals continue to refine their sound that unites elements of both contemporary and classic bluegrass. Before Breakfast rises to the



level one would expect from such a veteran, stable, and talented band. Songs from current writers like Becky Buller, Charles R. Humphrey III, and Jon Weisberger comfortably fit with songs from Flatt & Scruggs, Bill Anderson, Harley Allen and Webb Pierce.

The Blue Sky Boys, 1939-1949 Radio Broadcasts

(PATUX-280) A four-CD set of new Blue Sky Boys radio show recordings assembled by none less than their biographer Dick Spottswood is cause for celebration. These 128(!) tracks from stations in Atlanta, Raleigh, and Bristol and preserved at the Southern Folklife Collection, sound good to terrific and include Bill Bolick's emcee work, Uncle Josh comedy, and the even their audition recording show from 1939. By cherry picking

recording show from 1939. the complete shows and pulling the majority of songs individually, repeat tracks are avoided—save for the ubiquitous theme song "Are You From Dixie." A must have for any fan of brother duets. 4-CD Set \$21.50



The Price Sisters, A Heart Never Knows (Rebel REB-

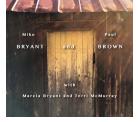
CD-1868) One of the most successful traditionally-oriented bluegrass releases of the first half of 2018, A Heart Never Knows marks the album-length debut for these accomplished 23-year-old twins. They switch from lead to baritone with ease only siblings can. They successfully interpret material ranging from the



Carter Family to contemporary bluegrass and folk songwriters. Backing Lauren's mandolin and Leanna's fiddle are Mike Bub, Bryan Sutton, and Charlie Cushman. A gem from the best young sister duet in bluegrass.

Mike Bryant and Paul Brown with Marcia Bryant and Terri McMurray, Mike Bryant and Paul Brown (Tiki Parlour Recordings TIKI-012) The extraordinary Mike Bryant finally commits his powerful fiddling to a recording in this compelling recording featuring two couples who have grown until old masters passing on the tradition, despite where they may have grown up. Bryant's fiddling is of such a high level, the Brown

sticks to his masterful banjo playing. This is exceptional oldtime music, certainly not limited to Round Peak. Bryant draws from Kentucky's John Morgan Salyer, Fiddlin' Arthur Smith, and Ozarks, Round Peak, and Mississippi sources.



Amanda Cook, *Deep Water* (Mountain Fever MRF171103)

Contemporary bluegrass using songs from some of today's top songwriters and featuring an excellent lead singer in Amanda Cook.



Alan Jabbour and Stephen Wade, Americana Concert: Alan Jabbour and Stephen Wade at the Library of Congress (Patuxent PATUX-308)

Two of the greatest revival players of fiddle and banjo respectively, Alan Jabbour and Stephen Wade appeared at the Library of Congress in 1998. Wade's



imaginative backup playing counters very well the late Jabbour's stately fiddling This album provides 15 traditional tunes, but and perhaps more importantly, the late Jabbour fascinating introductions to the tunes, which he made into an artform.

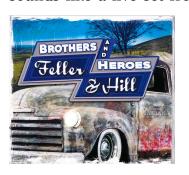
Kenny & Amanda Smith, *Unbound* (Farm Boy Records

FBR-1004) Amanda Smith long ago established herself as a leading voice in Kenny &

herself as a leading voice in contemporary bluegrass, while Kenny has been one of the most respected guitarists for the past score. Unbound displays both these traits on ballads, medium and up tempo bluegrass songs most built an irresistible rolling rhythm.



Feller & Hill, Brothers and Heroes (Rural Rhythm RUR-1139) Feller & Hill are on the Boys From Indiana family tree, literally for Tom Feller who is the nephew of the Holt Brothers. A retro band, Feller & Hill take those of us of a certain age right back to the late 1970s and 1980s. Brothers and Heroes, to me, sounds like a live set from back then. Razor sharp



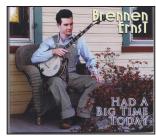
performances throughout on material ranging from 1950s pop covers to songs from the Osborne Brothers, Boys From Indiana, and the Louvin Brothers and several original songs. Refreshing if not so original. Mark Johnson & Emory Lester, Acoustic Milestones: 20 Years (Quiet Fire Productions QFP-070) Two masters of the their instruments – "clawgrass" banjoist Mark Johnson and Canadian mandolinist Emory Lester team for yet another album distinguished by playing



of the highest order. Song choices range from Hoagy Carmichael to Bill Monroe, Steve Gillette to Rodney Crowell. The pair play every instrument and Emory sings every note.

Brennen Ernst, *Had A Big Time Today* (Patuxent PATUX-307) Brennen Ernst features his banjo playing on Had a Big Time Today save for the "Flatpicking Medley." He includes a good deal of traditional bluegrass, right smart of old-time, Doc Watson

style guitar playing, a classic country song, and what I can only describe as triple fiddle rockabilly. Ernst is a monster player backed here by some mighty fine players. If you like both old-time and bluegrass, this is a must buy.



Brad Hudson, Next New Heartbreak (Pinecastle PRC1212) Next New Heartbreak announces the debut of Brad Hudson as a bandleader, leaving Sideline. Hudson assembled an all-star cast including Dolly Parton, Steve Dilling, Skip Cherryholmes, and Jason Moore of Sideline, Ron Stewart, Jeff & Sheri Easter, Aaron Ramsey, his hero Clyde Mattocks of the Super



Grit Cowboy Band, and his Grandma Betty. They move easily from acoustic ballads to hard bluegrass to contemporary Christian on this set of songs from Mattocks, Parton, Tom Paxton and himself.

Molly Rose Band, With All Due Respect (Patuxent PATUX-285) Banjo veteran Lynwood Lunsford (Jimmy

Martin, Lost & Found) leads this Danville, Virginia quartet that specializes in straight up bluegrass music. Rhythmpowered, the Molly Rose Band has produced an enjoyable, well-done album of mostly familiar songs and tunes.



Dale Ann Bradley, Dale Ann Bradley (Pinecastle PRC

1209) Dale Ann Bradley flawlessly walks a line looking forwards and backwards at the same. Whether from Carter Stanley, Conway Twitty, or a contemporary

writer, whether traditional or not, Dale Ann applies her voice and emotion to great effect. It took a long time and a lot of work, but she finally earned her spot in high circles of bluegrass. Guests include Vince Gill, Steve Gulley.



Snyder Family Band, The Life We Know (Mountain Home

MH16780) You can't achieve more musical diversity with acoustic guitar, fiddle, and bass than the Snyder Family pack into the delightful The Life We Know.



Starting off with western swing on a terrific cover of Lyle Lovette's "Cowboy Man," the family trio delivers hard bluegrass, contemporary Christian, singer-songwriter, and Americana, even a Marshall Tucker Band cover among the many originals.

Bela Fleck & Abigail Washburn, *Echo in the Valley* (Rounder ROU-00290) Mixing original songs and tunes with two pre-World War II songs, Abby brings her husband into a more traditional sounding space

than he has mostly inhabited. The results are a lovely and loving collection marked by the ease and restraint of understated virtuosity. Echo in the Valley will appeal to a lot of people who normally don't listen to Fleck or Washburn.



Daniel Greeson, Done Gone (Patuxent PATUX-313)
New Sideline member Daniel Greeson fiddles his

way through thirteen tunes from Kenny Baker, Bill Monroe, Fiddling Arthur Smith, Benny Martin, and David Grisman on his second solo album. The twenty-one-year-old North Carolinian, backed by Brennen



Ernst, Marshall Wilborn, and others, exhibits excellent technique and great taste in both his playing selections. Greeson is definitely an artist to watch, a major talent as comfortable at a slow waltz speed as a flat out breakdown.

COUNTY SALES PO BOX 191 FLOYD, VA. 24091

NEW: COUNTY SALES MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE!



Show off your support in style, with your very own County Sales t-shirt and stickers!

Join us in celebrating the re-opening of the famous retailer with the best selection of CD's, DVDs, books and other items related to old-time and bluegrass music!

County Sales T-Shirt: \$20.00 County Sales Sticker: \$3.00