

# Matt Brown



**M**att Brown performs American roots music with an expansive repertoire of toe-tapping square dance tunes, haunting solo pieces, and a variety of songs from the blues to ballads. He is an innovative fiddler, an intricate banjo player, a propulsive guitar player, and a poignant singer. While much of his repertoire comes from the Appalachian south, he also loves sharing the songs of his home state, Pennsylvania. Matt delights his audiences with a wry sense of humor and a sound that is both authentic and inventive.

Matt's childhood included fiddlers' conventions, square dances, and string band rehearsals in the living room. Soon after beginning classical violin lessons on his fourth birthday, Matt was learning fiddle tunes from masters of old-time music. He picked up the guitar and the banjo in his teens, and was inspired to start singing soon thereafter. His mentors include Ginny Hawker, Bruce Molsky, Paul Brown (no relation), Tracy Schwarz, and Bruce Greene.

Matt Brown tours nationally as a solo artist and band leader, and has performed with Paul Brown, Rhythm in Shoes, Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble, and Brittany Haas. He has appeared as a guest musician with Tim O'Brien, Uncle Earl, and The Wilders. Matt has performed at a variety of prestigious venues including The Kennedy Center, Club Passim, the Ozark Folk Center, the University of Kentucky, the Annenberg Center, the Philadelphia Folk Festival, Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival, and The Wheatland Music Festival.

Matt's debut album, *Lone Prairie*, showcases his remarkable fiddling, and features Paul Brown on banjo and Beverly Smith playing guitar and singing. His second studio release, *Falls of Richmond*, demonstrates his versatility as a multi-instrumentalist and singer. Matt's new album, *My Native Home*, is a delightful mix of solo performances and collaborations with four illustrious guest artists: Tim O'Brien, Ben Krakauer, Brittany Haas, and Mark Schatz. Highlights of the album include Brown's original fiddle tune, "Taylor Girls," and his duet performance of "Build Me a Cabin," with Tim O'Brien singing tenor.

Matt Brown has been on staff at The Colorado Suzuki Institute, The Rocky Mountain Fiddle Camp, The Swannanoa Gathering, and Southern Week at Ashokan, and has taught workshops at Berklee College of Music, the Old Town School of Folk Music, and Morehead State University. In addition to being a performer and a teacher, he is also an active producer, a studio musician, and a partner in 5-String Productions, an independent record label specializing in acoustic music. Matt is featured on the cover of the Spring 2010 issue of *Fiddler Magazine*.

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