



Mike Compton and Joe Newberry mine one of the more neglected segments of country music history, that period during the '30's and '40's when brother duet music was transforming into bluegrass. Both masters of the bedrock instruments of old time music, they collaborate with a vision that's both modern and ageless. These two traditional music veterans love to play together... and it shows.

*Mandolin Magazine* calls Mike Compton a player with "a worldwide reputation as one of the modern masters of bluegrass mandolin...one of the most recognizable and respected mandolin voices anywhere". He's a Grammy and IBMA award-winning recording artist; soloist, duo and band

performer; and as passionate a teacher, preservationist, and advocate for the mandolin as you're ever likely to find. The New York Times calls Compton a "new bluegrass instrumental hero."

Born in Meridian, Mississippi (hometown to the legendary Jimmie Rodgers) in 1956, Mike grew up hearing old-time country music, and took up the mandolin as a teenager. Drawn to the powerful mix of old-time fiddle stylings, blues influences and pure creativity embodied in Monroe's playing, he moved to Nashville in 1977 and quickly found work with veteran banjoist and former Monroe sideman Hubert Davis. By the middle of the 1980's, he was recruited by Pat Enright and Alan O'Bryant to help found the Nashville Bluegrass Band, and the group quickly became one of the most prominent and admired in bluegrass. In four years of wide-ranging tours that covered the globe, the quintet recorded an equal number of acclaimed albums before a bus accident prompted Mike to reconsider his career and leave the NBB for a year of quiet work and introspection in New York's Catskill Mountains.

Returning to Nashville, Compton joined the legendary John Hartford, recording a half-dozen albums with the Hartford String Band and touring extensively until Hartford's death in 2001. At the same time, he began to develop collaborative efforts in recording, performing, and teaching with other masters such as guitarist David Grier, with whom he has toured and recorded the IBMA Album Of The Year-nominated *Climbing The Walls*; renowned mandolinists David Grisman and Mike Marshall, at whose invitation he participates in the Mandolin Symposium in Santa Cruz, California; producer T-Bone Burnette, for whom he not only performed as a Soggy Bottom Boy on 2001's Grammy Album Of the Year, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, but on the following Grammy-winning *Down From The Mountain* soundtrack and tours, and on the *Cold Mountain* soundtrack and tours; and, in 2006, with mandolinist David Long, with whom he recorded *Stomp*, nominated for the IBMA's Recorded Event Of The Year. Adding to his full schedule, Mike was invited to rejoin the Nashville Bluegrass Band in 2000, where *No Depression* magazine noted in a 2004 review that "*his contributions notably enhance one of the band's greatest strengths: its uniquely precise take on the blues.*"

Honored in 2002 with a special resolution by the Mississippi State Senate for his accomplishments, and playing at Carnegie Hall and The White House by request, Mike Compton is in demand today at every level: solo tours, treasured performances with the Nashville Bluegrass Band, appearances with duet partners, instructional settings, to studio recordings with bluegrass legends such as Ralph Stanley and country stars like Faith Hill. In the end, there's no better way to say it than in the words of *Mandolin Magazine*--Mike Compton, is, simply put, "*a certified mandolin icon.*"

Joe Newberry is a Missouri native and North Carolina transplant who has played music most of his life. Internationally known for his powerful banjo work, he is a prizewinning guitarist, fiddler, and singer as well. Joe's songwriting is characterized by the same clean, elegant style as his banjo playing. Musicians in the folk and bluegrass world often record his songs. The Gibson Brothers' version of his song "Singing As We Rise," featuring guest vocalist Ricky Skaggs, won the 2012 IBMA "Gospel Recorded Performance" award.

A frequent guest on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*, Joe is a founder of the string band Big Medicine, and along with Mike, performs with Bruce Molsky and Rafe Stefanini as The Jumpsteady Boys. A special side project pairs Joe with old-time music legends Bill Hicks, Mike Craver, and Jim Watson. The four play to enthusiastic audiences around the country as often as their busy individual schedules permit.

Joe grew up in a family full of singers and dancers. He took up the guitar and banjo as a teenager and learned fiddle tunes from great Missouri fiddlers. He came to North Carolina as a young man and quickly became an anchor of the incredible music scene in the state. Still going strong more than 30 years later, he does solo and studio work, and plays and teaches at festivals and workshops in North America and abroad.