

Richard Stooksbury

Short Bio

Born and raised in the Appalachian foothills of eastern Tennessee, Richard Stooksbury began exploring country music, rural themes, and guitar playing at a very early age. From those first strains of his parents' Hank Williams and Johnny Horton records, he was hooked to a music that spoke the language of the rural southern landscape that surrounded him. Listening to those old records led to picking up the guitar at seven years old. The first two pieces that he remembers playing are "Mister Bojangles" and a finger-picked version of "Cripple Creek". The rest may well be history.

An untamable wanderlust led him to South Carolina, Wyoming, and finally to western Oregon in the early nineties after leaving his native home. It was there that he stumbled upon song craft and began to develop a taste for putting words to the music that he played on guitar. It was in this artistic environment that he nurtured a love for "modern" folk music and the community radio that supports it. Drawing upon influences as diverse as early country (Hank and Horton) and modern folk (Bill Morrissey and Greg Brown), as well as the classic Texas turned Nashville songwriters (Townes, Guy Clark, Jerry Jeff); Richard had taken his own life experiences and turned them into his own brand of songs.

Finally inspired, Richard made his way back to his native Tennessee in 1997. Since that time he has continued to develop his own song craft and performing skills. 2005 marks the release of Richard's solo debut CD. Backed by John Crowder (bass), Al Goll (dobro and Hawaiian guitars), and Fats Kaplin (accordion, fiddle, and mandolin) – Richard breathes life into songs new and old. The live performances in studio and the laid back, sparse arrangements lead the listener directly into the heart of the songs. Produced by Nashville session bassist extraordinaire, Charlie Chadwick, this release proves to continue and expand upon the themes that Richard has learned since those early days listening to the greats.