

Contents

Acknowledgments xi

Introduction 1

PART 1. Back to the Beginning 5

- CHAPTER 1. Routes and Roots 7
- CHAPTER 2. The Instrumental Essentials 9
- CHAPTER 3. Mississippi and the Birth of the Blues 15
- CHAPTER 4. Bluegrass Breaks Out 24
- CHAPTER 5. Talking with a Legend: Dr. Ralph Stanley 28
- CHAPTER 6. The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band Completes
the Circle 31

PART 2. Byrds, Burritos, and Changing Times 37

- CHAPTER 7. David Crosby: A Byrd's Timeless Flight 39
- CHAPTER 8. Chris Hillman: The Byrds and Beyond 43
- CHAPTER 9. Richie Furay Remembers: Seminal Member
of Buffalo Springfield, Poco, and Souther-
Hillman-and Furay Shares His Story 50
- CHAPTER 10. Poco Primes Country Rock 58
- CHAPTER 11. Timothy B. Schmit: From Poco to the Eagles,
Still Flying High 65
- CHAPTER 12. The Eagles' One Time Wingman Don Felder
Shares His Story 70
- CHAPTER 13. Graham Nash: Past but Present 74
- CHAPTER 14. Dwight Yoakam Goes Back to Bakersfield 77
- CHAPTER 15. Holly Williams: Heir to a Legend 87
- CHAPTER 16. Sam Bush: From Bluegrass to Nu-Grass, and
Stopping in Nashville in Between 90

CHAPTER 17.	Kinky Friedman: An Irascible Icon Speaks Out	96
CHAPTER 18.	Guy Clark's Melancholy Musings	104
CHAPTER 19.	Billy Joe Shaver: A Rebel with a Cause	112
CHAPTER 20.	Ray Wylie Hubbard's Past Perfect	115
CHAPTER 21.	David Bromberg: Sideman as Superstar	119
CHAPTER 22.	Delbert McClinton Peruses the Past, While Contemplating the Present	122
PART 3. The Transition Is Complete: Americana Today		127
CHAPTER 23.	John Oates Takes a Rural Route off the Mainstream Mile	129
CHAPTER 24.	Steve Forbert and the Art of Compromise	132
CHAPTER 25.	A Lot to Lovett	139
CHAPTER 26.	No Baggage for Bela	143
CHAPTER 27.	Jay Farrar Talks about a Prodigal Son Volt	147
CHAPTER 28.	Chris Isaak Aims for Arcane Americana	151
CHAPTER 29.	Shawn Colvin: Covers Girl	154
CHAPTER 30.	The Mavericks: Renegade Rockers	158
CHAPTER 31.	The Steep Canyon Rangers: Bluegrass Boosters on a Steady Ascent	166
CHAPTER 32.	The Punch Brothers Get Punchy	169
CHAPTER 33.	Yonder Mountain String Band: A Testament to Telluride	176
CHAPTER 34.	Greensky Bluegrass: Breaking Down Barriers	182
CHAPTER 35.	The Avett Brothers Redefine the Template	187
CHAPTER 36.	Amanda Shires Emerges on Her Own	195
CHAPTER 37.	Donna the Buffalo and the Populist Stampede	204
CHAPTER 38.	A Rose by Any Other Name	207
CHAPTER 39.	Derek Trucks Talks Multitasking, Working with His Wife, and Lessons Learned from the Past	212
CHAPTER 40.	Dave Rawlings: Man as Machine	220

CHAPTER 41.	The Dawes Pause: Looking Forward with a Nod to the Past	231
CHAPTER 42.	Ruthie Keeps It Real	237
CHAPTER 43.	Mekons Blur the Line between Past and Present	240
CHAPTER 44.	Band of Heathens as a Band of Brothers	249
CHAPTER 45.	Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band Go Back to the Roots	254
PART 4. Americana Abroad 262		
CHAPTER 46.	Julian Dawson: Despite English Origins, He's Found His Nashville Niche	263
CHAPTER 47.	The Dreaming Spires Share Their Search for the "Supertruth"	266
CHAPTER 48.	The Sadies Look South	269
CHAPTER 49.	The Falls: Love, Life, and Life on the Road	271
CHAPTER 50.	Ireland's Arborist Details His Circumspect	273
CHAPTER 51.	Jenn Grant Channels Her Mother's Inspiration and Her Own Determination	275
CHAPTER 52.	The Henrys' Unlikely Exposition	277
Appendix. Essential Albums That Trace the Transition 279		
Index 282		

Galleries of images follow pages 82 and 226.