

JOHN HARTFORD

ONE MAN BAND!

SET 1

- 01 - You Asked Me
- 02 - Piece of My Heart
- 03 - Mississippi River Home
- 04 - Golden Globe Award
- 05 - In Tall Buildings
- 06 - Black Mountain Rag
- 07 - Steam Powered Aeroplane
- 08 - Don't Leave Your Records in the Sun
- 09 - My Rag
- 10 - Wrong Road Again
- 11 - Old Riverman
- 12 - Mississippi River Queen
- 13 - River Road

SET 2

- 14 - Skippin' in the Mississippi Dew
- 15 - Up on the Hill Where They Do the Boogie
- 16 - No Expectations
- 17 - Steamboat Whistle Blues
- 18 - First Girl I Loved
- 19 - The Six O'Clock Train and a Girl with Green Eyes
- 20 - Orange Blossom Special
- 21 - John McGlaughlin
- 22 - No End of Love
- 23 - Wagoner's Lad
- 24 - Slumberin' on the Cumberland
- 25 - How Beautiful Heaven Must Be
- 26 - Roll in My Sweet Baby's Arms

Produced by David Grisman for Dawg Productions

Executive Producer - Craig Miller

Recorded by Ken "Easy Ed" Edwards at Cotati Cabaret | Transfer by Brad Hefner

Mastered by Neville Pearsall in Dawg Studios

Artwork - Dave "FM" Moretti

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Recorded Live in Cotati California, June 21, 1983



Reflecting on John Hartford, the multi-faceted musician, tunesmith, artist, calligrapher, steamboat pilot, humorist and conduit for so many aspects of American culture, is both mind-opening and boggling. Where does one start or finish? Perhaps with the Mississippi River, flowing through John's youth, his psyche and the music he made in a live solo performance, captured on this recording from Cotati, California, on one evening in 1983.

This “*one man band*” concert showcases a myriad of John's talents. His fiddling is rich with so many influences, including deep dives into the languages of the bluegrass masters who were also his buddies and collaborators — Vassar Clements and Benny Martin. Combine that with his encyclopedic knowledge of fiddle tunes, popular and obscure, on full display here, painting an aural landscape of one of America's most treasured musical traditions. Then there's the unique Hartford take on the 5-string banjo, combining hard-driving, warp-speed Scruggs picking, with sophisticated solos and accompaniments, both lyrical and comical.

Of course there are the songs (traditional, contemporary and original) sung by that singular steadfast voice, comfortable and commanding, like your best friend or favorite book, singing and speaking to just you. John's guitar reveals even more musical attributes, informed by jazz harmonies and bluegrass flat-picking with dynamics and clever counterpoints to melodies, simple and complex. And to top (and bottom) it all off, those happy feet clogging on his famed amplified plywood platform, providing the perfect groove and percussion parts to his tunes and songs, played with the sensitivity, artistry and wild abandon as only John Hartford could summon it. It was both an honor and pleasure to be a friend and collaborator, and now, the purveyor of this amazing recording.

— David “Dawg” Grisman, August, 2026

