



**JONATHAN BYRD**

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Jonathan Byrd splashed onto the folk scene in a big way. After winning the North Carolina Songwriter's Co-op 'Song of the Year' in 2000, Jonathan released a debut album with a maturity usually only heard of in the majors. Having heard a cut from "Wildflowers," folk legend Tom Paxton contacted Byrd immediately, saying, "What a treat to hear someone so deeply rooted in tradition, yet growing in his own beautiful way."

Born to a southern family, Jonathan grew up with aunts who sang harmonies together and uncles who played blues and bluegrass guitar. Byrd learned to sing in the church where his father preached, and began performing solos when he was 8 years old, about the same time his mother began teaching him piano. By his high school years in Hillsborough, NC, Jonathan had discovered the guitar and joined Orange High School's big band jazz program. Eager to learn, he studied theory and began penning his own compositions.

After graduation, Jonathan spent four years in the Navy with three tours in the Mediterranean on an amphibious assault ship. His guitar accompanied him wherever he went and, upon his return to civilian life, he explored Ireland and the Appalachian mountains of the southern states in a search for his musical roots. An award winning songwriter and accomplished guitarist, Jonathan Byrd has appeared on television shows, live radio, and nearly 200 live dates per year since beginning a full-time career in January 2000. Jonathan is a magical live performer. 'Sing Out!' magazine says Byrd is, "a songwriter of exceptional talent... with the stark storytelling of the finest traditional balladeers."

As a recording artist, Byrd slides easily from bluegrass into country, and then country blues on his well-rounded debut, 'Wildflowers.' Gorgeous acoustic instrumentation and Byrd's unique voice evoke the ghosts of traditional southern music, like a young man exploring a haunted old house. One critic in Austin called Jonathan "the Alison Krauss of the male gender," for his soaring neo-traditional sounds. Jonathan's second release, "The Waitress," is due out in the fall of 2002 and explores the colorful, sometimes dark world of this contemporary southern songwriter.

If you enjoy Jonathan's music, you owe it to yourself to see him live. You can sign up here for a monthly email with tour dates and news, including new releases.