

# *Steve Kaufman-*



**Steve Kaufman** was born into a musical family in 1957. His father was a jazz piano player and his mother was a classically trained pianist. Music was always around. At four Steve started plinking at the piano and did so for several years. He then moved on to the electric guitar at 10 for a few years and put it away. Next came the cello in 5<sup>th</sup> grade for a few years. After this Steve picked up the acoustic guitar again and blazed right through a “Folk Guitar” method book. When finished he thought if this is as hard as it gets it’s not for him. Then his younger brother, Will, started playing the banjo and his instructor told him he needed a rhythm guitar player to help with his timing. So Steve then picked up his guitar again and got into the bluegrass rhythm. One day Will brought home a Flatt and Scruggs LP, which featured Doc Watson on guitar, and Steve was hooked on flatpicking.

Steve practiced hard with his newfound love of music, sometimes up to 8 hours a day. At age 18 he entered the National Flatpicking Championships in Winfield, KS and made the top 10. The following year was a wash. In 1977, Steve took 2<sup>nd</sup> place to Mark O’Conner and in 1978, at 21 years old, he returned to win the championship. Then after being barred for 5 years he returned on the 6<sup>th</sup> year to win the 1984 championships again. Winfield bars the winner for 5 years and they can come back on the 6<sup>th</sup> year but in 1986 they decided to open up the contest to everyone and not bar the past years champs. Steve returned to win his goal. He became the winner and the first and, at this writing, the only Three Time Winner of the National Flatpicking Championships. He is also noted to have 3 consecutive wins in the Nationals because he was barred all the years he did not enter.

Steve continues to work hard in the world of music. He began producing books and videos in 1989 after teaching private lessons for close to 20 years. His catalog of instructional materials is close to 85 items. His listening CDs and Videos number over 16. Steve began touring the world conducting seminars, workshops, clinics and concerts in 1990 and after 5 years he and his wife, Donna, began “Steve Kaufman’s Flatpicking Camp”. Every other year they have added more camps into their agenda and now under the title “Steve Kaufman’s Acoustic Kamps” they host a Fingerpicking Kamp, Old Time Banjo, Bluegrass Banjo and Mandolin Kamp as well. They have grown into the largest Kamps of their kind in the world with students traveling from around the world to Maryville, Tennessee. In 2002 and 2004, Steve Kaufman received the Gold Award from a reader’s poll in Acoustic Guitar Magazine for running the “Best Workshops, Seminars and Camps”.

Steve stays busy being a husband and father, running his Kamps, tour schedule, writing books and recording videos and CDs as well as owning and operating The Palace Theater in downtown Maryville see [www.palacetheater.com](http://www.palacetheater.com). The areas premier acoustic venue as well as an espresso bar.

***P.O. Box 1020, Alcoa, TN. 37701-1020***  
***800-FLATPIK 800-352-8745 865-982-3808***

# *His Music, Appearances, Concert Appeal-*

*“Steve Kaufman is great; the boy can pick. He knows what good music is.”*

**Doc Watson**

*“Kaufman is a monster player. Fluid at any speed and in all registers, he also commands a fine sense of melody which imbues his improvising with a lushness that eludes many flashy guitarists.”*

**The Chicago Tribune**

*“Kaufman’s great gift is his remarkable clarity of his guitar playing. Steve Kaufman is highly recommended to anyone who enjoys flatpicked guitar music.”*

**Bluegrass Unlimited**



*“Few flatpickers are as accomplished as Kaufman, the only guitarist to ever win the coveted National Flatpicking Championships at Winfield, Kansas, three times.”*

**Acoustic Guitar**

*“Tennessee picker captivates crowd.”*

**Sunday Chronicle-Herald**

*“You can tell Steve Kaufman is one of the good guys by the white hat he wears, but you’ll have to listen to him to tell how good a player he is.”*

**Indianapolis News**

*“Kaufman’s playing is spectacular. His speed is astounding, more so because he never sacrifices tone, never lets his notes blur together. He makes his acoustic guitar a versatile, expressive lead instrument.”*

**Arkansas Gazette**

*“Steve is one of the best young flatpickers in the country. And along with his flair for the hot and flashy, he has some additional ammunition like power, clarity and musical taste.”*

**Dan Crary**

*“The tone and phrasing is excellent and most important- the melodic sense is superb. You certainly set some high standards for all of us to aspire to.”*

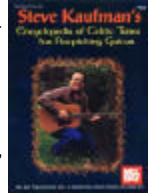
**John Hartford**

# His Publications and Workshop Skills-



*“As a professional guitar teacher, Kaufman has perfected his teaching skills as much as his picking technique.”*

**Bluegrass Unlimited**



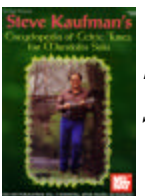
*“Kaufman patiently teaches and extols the virtues of melodic guitar playing. He also shows that you don't need an electric guitar and an amp. to be electrifying on the guitar.”*

**The Music Paper**



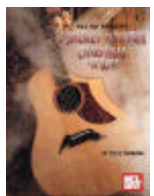
*“Parking Lot Picking - A Bluegrass workout with Steve Kaufman.”*

**Acoustic Guitar**



*“Kaufman is a formidable player, and the accomplished flatpicker can use his books for guitar contests, for technical exercises, or to develop picking speed and fingerboard knowledge.”*

**Acoustic Guitar**



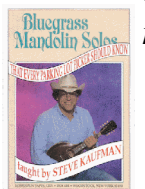
*“Kaufman has a low key, friendly way of presenting his material and he is usually clear in stating his ideas.”*

**California Traditional Music Society**



*“He brings a tremendous wealth of ideas to a bluegrass/folk approach to Southern gospel classics. Kaufman's presentation of intermediate-to-advanced ideas is strong, distinguishing himself with ideas on constructing bass lines and developing solos while still maintaining the rhythm function of the guitar.”*

**Sing Out**



## The Winning Combination.



*Steve Kaufman has been described as an outstanding performer, a versatile author and a comprehensive workshop director. This 3 Time Guitar Champion will attract both professionals and non-professionals to your festival, venue, music store or school. This will establish a long term relationship between you and Steve's fans and generate funds, friends and followers. We are offering a “win - win” situation and we know that we can deliver.*

*Call today! 1-800-FLATPIK (1-800-352-8745) or 865-982-3808 and someone from the office will get back to you as soon as possible.*

*Thank you for promoting and supporting our music.*