

# GRANT MALOY SMITH APPALACHIA AMERICAN STORIES

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Three years in the making, the follow-up to Grant Maloy Smith's critically-acclaimed, Billboard Top 10 album *DUST BOWL: AMERICAN STORIES* (eleven weeks in the top 10 of the Americana/Folk album sales chart), recorded right in the middle of a global pandemic, *APPALACHIA: AMERICAN STORIES* features some of Nashville's best players, including: Grammy® and IBMA® winning dobro player **Rob Ickes** (*Merle Haggard, Earl Scruggs, Tony Rice, Alison Krauss*), Grammy® Nominated guitarist **Trey Hensley** (*Marty Stuart, Earl Scruggs, Johnny and June Carter Cash*), Grammy winning accordionist **Jeff Taylor** (*The Time Jumpers, "Always, Patsy Cline" bandleader, Boots Randolph*), Grammy nominated fiddler **Matt Combs** (*The Grand Ole Opry, Reba McEntire*), Harpist **Jelly Roll Johnson** (*Trisha Yearwood, Guy Clark, Travis Tritt, Alan Jackson, Randy Travis*), and 2-time AMC award steel guitarist of the year **Mike Johnson** (*George Strait, Reba McEntire, Jason Aldean, Luke Bryan, Kenny Chesney, Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson, George Jones, Dwight Yoakum*). All of the players are shown and credited in the book.



Grant Maloy Smith



Rob Ickes



Trey Hensley



Jeff Taylor



Jelly Roll Johnson



Matt Combs



Mike Johnson

Co-produced with Jeff Silverman of Palette Studios MSP in Mount Juliet, Tennessee, *APPALACHIA: AMERICAN STORIES* is a love letter to the region. Grant's family came here in the 1700s, primarily eastern Kentucky, Tennessee and southwest Ohio. Tough subjects are taken on, from the rise and fall of coal (*"The Coal Comes Up"*), and the worst mining disaster in US history, in Monongah, West Virginia (*"By And By The Way"*), as well as a heart-rending night with an opioid addict going through a painful withdrawal (*"In This Twilight"*).

Grant's love for the region comes through loud and clear on songs like *"The Red-Haired Girl From Hazard,"* a tribute to his Kentucky born mother, *"Take Me Home,"* and the rousing finalé, *"We Got Mountains,"* among others. The album is 12 songs, with a running time of 43:21. Available on both CD and 33 RPM 12" vinyl, it includes a 40-page book of lyrics, liner notes, and background information about every song.

More information: [www.grant-maloy-smith.com/appalachia](http://www.grant-maloy-smith.com/appalachia)

• Suburban Cowboy LLC.



The physical package includes a box set with a 40-page book and a CD, or the book with a CD and a 180g vinyl LP in the complete set..



The front cover of the book, CD and LP.

The deep roots of faith across Appalachia are captured in both *“Down To Hatchabee Road,”* and *“I Found Faith,”* which features stunning backing vocals from Kim Fleming and Kim Mont, as well as a featured appearance by gospel legend Rev. Janice Brown (of *“The Rough Side Of The Mountain”* fame).

Poignant reminiscences like *“Boone’s Five and Dime”* celebrate small town shop owners, and folks who give more than they get, and *“Sometimes You’re The Holler,”* demonstrate Grant’s storytelling skills, a deep tradition in roots music.

And then there’s the just plain fun of songs like *“Gas Station Chicken,”* about a favorite Southern road food, and *“Must’ve Been The Moonlight,”* a swiny number about finding love and being town between leaving the hills, or staying.

The last pages of the 40-page book include a large bibliography, as well as credits and references for all of the public domain images, and a shout-out to the investors in this album.

COVID-19 made recording more challenging than usual, but Grant and co-producer Jeff Silverman used video conferencing to see and hear the players, who were hooked into Jeff’s studio remotely via a high resolution audio links. The sessions were conducted live, but the players were miles away instead of in the next room.

The album was partially funded by fans, who pre-ordered the album as far back as 2019. Those orders are now being fulfilled ahead of the official release date of June 1, 2021. Grant’s music is distributed digitally by Sony/ Orchard.

The first single, *“The Coal Comes Up,”* is being released May 28 to Apple Music, Amazon Music, Spotify and other platforms, and the entire album will be released on June 25, 2021, digitally. A physical box set is available from the artist’s website, including a 40-page book, CD, or 180g LP and CD.



For Reviewers:

Listen to the album at this private Soundcloud link:

<https://bit.ly/3byPKK5>

Read the 40-page book at this link:

<https://www.grant-maloy-smith.com/thebook>

Reviewers who prefer to receive a physical copy can request one from [manager@grant-maloy-smith.com](mailto:manager@grant-maloy-smith.com).