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The New Holland Honey Eaters

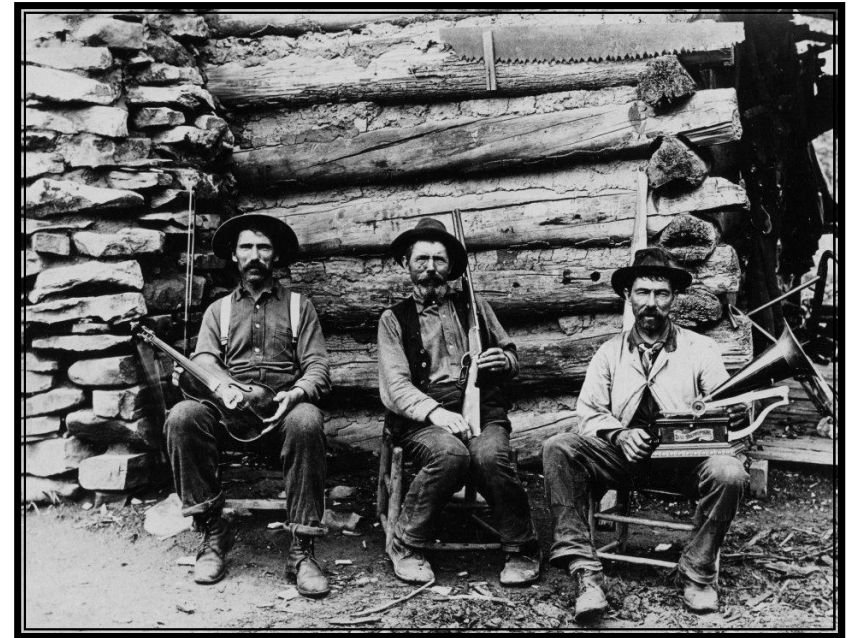
present

Fiddle Tunes

and a

Hard God:

The Story of Appalachia



The NHHE would like to thank Luke Ray for slide operation ,and Paul Stewart for slide operation and the Ron Thomason quote.

Introduction

Appalachian music has been a continuous part of America's cultural fabric since European settlement.

The music reached a wider audience with the commercial recordings of the 1920s and 30s and the spread of radio broadcasting, continuing through the social mixing of the Second World War and the "folk revival" which started in the 1950s and has continued to the present. Along the way Appalachian music has influenced the development of old-time music, gospel, country music, bluegrass, and more.

We of the *New Holland Honey Eaters* felt this might be a good time to take a look at the region. We'll see where it is, why the Scots-Irish, Germans and English came and settled there, what the social and economic forces were that shaped their lives, and how all of this produced a vibrant music that developed from its roots into the phenomenon we see today.

Along the way we'll look at how America's national consciousness perceives these fatalistic, traditionalist, individualistic, and fundamentalist people.

And of course we'll tell the story through the music that we love.

The Band has been presenting the old-time music of the American south-east in historical contexts through "on-stage documentaries" for thirty years. Back in 2009, we developed what amounted to a theatrical reproduction of the style and content of a 1930s-era rural radio "barn dance" program. We so enjoyed ourselves that we have continued to try to tell our stories while keeping at least some of the dynamic radio-show format that we so enjoyed. The result is *Fiddle Tunes and a Hard God: The Story of Appalachia*.

The show is being performed in the modern-day studio of mythical southern radio station *WYOY*, part of the *NBC* national network. *The New Holland Honey Eaters* string band is hosting its monthly *Behind the Times* radio show - a series in which they look at southern traditional music through the filter of topics in social history.

Despite the radio-show format, we have incorporated slides, field-recorded voices and film clips throughout the show to illustrate the dialogue, songs and tunes impressionistically and, hopefully, to help you take this historical journey.

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