

NOW YOU BAKE RIGHT: FLATT & SCRUGGS TELEVISION SHOWS, SPONSORED BY
MARTHA WHITE, DEBUT ON DVD

Volumes One and Two to be Released by Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum and
Shanachie Entertainment March 27

NASHVILLE, Tenn., January 29, 2007 – The Martha White-sponsored Flatt & Scruggs television show introduced bluegrass legends Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs to millions of homes in the South and throughout the nation in the 1950s and 1960s. On March 27, the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum and Shanachie Entertainment breathe new life into what had been a fond, shadowy memory with the DVD release of the Best of the Flatt & Scruggs TV Show, Volume One and Volume Two. Each volume contains two 30-minute episodes of the classic bluegrass TV program.

Until the late 1980s, it was believed that no copies of this groundbreaking series had survived. In 1989, however, advertising executive Bill Graham discovered and donated to the Museum 24 intact shows. Soon after, 12 more were acquired from another source. The shows were innovative on several levels: Each show's mix of uptempo tunes, comedy bits, spotlight instrumentals and occasional guest performances was a template that subsequent country variety shows would follow. Additionally, the Martha White in-show advertising and accompanying cooking demonstrations were precursors to modern product placement. Volumes one and two feature episodes from 1961 and 1962, when Flatt & Scruggs were at the peak of their performing powers and enjoying great popularity and touring success. (See notes at end for complete synopsis of each volume.)

Titled Flatt & Scruggs Grand Ole Opry, the show ran from 1955 until 1969, when the pair ended their partnership to take separate musical paths. These shows illustrate the band's greatness as a well-oiled performing unit. "Those were good years," Scruggs said of the era captured on these shows. "Basically, we had a good time with each other...There's nothing like that on the air now, I don't reckon."

Volumes three and four are scheduled for release in autumn 2007, with additional installments to follow.

If you are interested in receiving a review copy, please contact Tamara Saviano at (615) 664-1167 or tamara@savianomedia.com.

Accredited by the American Association of Museums, the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum is operated by the Country Music Foundation, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization chartered by the state of Tennessee in 1964. The Museum's mission is the preservation of the history of country and related vernacular music rooted in southern culture. With the same educational mission, the Foundation also operates CMF Records, the Museum's Frist Library and Archive, CMF Press, Historic RCA Studio B, and Hatch Show Print.

More information about the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum is available at www.countrymusichalloffame.com or by calling (615) 416-2001.

Best of the Flatt & Scruggs TV Show: Volume 1

August 1961 #1: A highlight of this episode is "Jimmie Brown the Newsboy," a Carter Family favorite, first recorded by Flatt & Scruggs in 1951. Former Foggy Mountain Boy Mac Wiseman registered his biggest country hit with the song in 1959. Also from 1951 comes the gospel quartet "Brother, I'm Getting Ready to Go." Earl played banjo on the original, but in this TV performance he plays guitar. Earl also plays guitar on a traditional instrumental, "Georgia Buck," which he would record in 1964. Paul Warren takes center stage four times during the show, singing lead on "Pig in the Pen," and playing the fiddle tunes "Shortnin' Bread," "Durham's Bull," and an unidentified selection that fills out the show. Flatt & Scruggs recorded

the gospel song "Jesus Savior Pilot Me" as a quartet number in 1958. "Before I Met You," a waltz, comes from the repertoire of Joe "Cannonball" Lewis. Flatt & Scruggs recorded it as a trio number in 1955, and it was a Top Ten country hit for Carl Smith in 1956. "Cousin Jake" Tullock and "Uncle Josh" Graves team up for "Feast Here Tonight," recorded by the Monroe Brothers in 1938 as "Have a Feast Here Tonight."

February 1962: Flatt & Scruggs primed the market for release of their next single, "Just Ain't," by performing it on this show. Recorded in May 1961, the song entered the country chart in April 1962, eventually climbing to #16. Hylo Brown does two songs he released as singles on Capitol: the traditional "John Henry" and an original number, "Lovesick and Sorrow." "Don't Let Your Deal Go Down" and "Earl's Breakdown" are Flatt & Scruggs classics. "Deal" was a mainstay of early country music. Bluegrass historian Neil Rosenberg has pointed out that the band's 1957 recording of the song marks the first time Flatt & Scruggs used gospel-style quartet harmony in a secular song. "Earl's Breakdown" was the first instrumental Scruggs recorded for Columbia Records, and it introduced his popular technique of shifting tuning during a song. Flatt & Scruggs recorded the gospel quartet "I'll Never Be Lonesome Again" in 1959. "Precious Memories," sung a cappella, is an oft-recorded traditional hymn, but notable because Flatt & Scruggs did not record it for commercial release. "A Hundred Years from Now" comes from the same 1957 session as "Don't Let Your Deal Go Down." Josh Graves is featured on "Down in the Valley" (also called "Birmingham Jail"), and Paul Warren and Earl Scruggs close out the show with a fiddle tune, "The Hollow Poplar."

Best of the Flatt & Scruggs TV Show: Volume 2

July 1961: "Polka on a Banjo" climbed to #12 on the country charts in 1960–61. The band recorded "Go Home," an Onie Wheeler tune, on May 23, 1961, only a few weeks before taping this TV show. It was even more successful, rising to #10 after its release in the fall of 1961. "Fire Ball Mail" (which Lester calls "Farewell Blues") comes from the pen of Fred Rose and was a Roy Acuff favorite; Flatt & Scruggs included it on their important 1961 album *Foggy Mountain Banjo*. "Foggy Mountain Special," first recorded in May 1954, ended up on another influential album, *Foggy Mountain Jamboree*. "I Won't Be Hanging Around" dates from a session in July 1957. Country singer Skeeter Davis (next week's guest on the show, Lester says) chose it for her 1968 RCA album *I Love Flatt & Scruggs*. "We'll Meet Again Sweetheart" was one of four songs cut by Flatt & Scruggs at their very first recording session, in 1948, at Knoxville radio station WROL. "Walking in My Sleep" found its way into the repertoires of a number of artists, including Arthur Smith, the Prairie Ramblers, Acuff, and Al Dexter. Flatt & Scruggs never recorded the well-known hymn "Are You Washed in the Blood." For their cameo, "Cousin Jake" Tullock and "Uncle Josh" Graves choose a Cowboy Copas tune, "You Live in a World All Your Own." Paul Warren fills out the show with a fiddle number, "Dance All Night with a Bottle in My Hand."

August 1961 #2: What "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" is to banjo pickers, "Wildwood Flower" is to acoustic guitar players—the instrument's anthem and proving ground. On this episode Flatt & Scruggs welcome country music pioneer Mother Maybelle Carter, who picks her trademark "Wildwood Flower" and, on autoharp, plays "The Liberty Dance" (the old fiddle tune "Liberty"). Scruggs acknowledged Carter's influence on his music, and within weeks of this performance Flatt & Scruggs released the album *Songs of the Famous Carter Family*. The album contained the Carter Family song "Homestead on the Farm," performed here by the band with Carter, and introduced by Flatt as "I Wonder How the Old Folks Are at Home." "Have You Come to Say Goodbye" does not show up in the Flatt & Scruggs discography, though Flatt recorded it later as a solo artist. Neither does "I Dreamed about Mama Last Night," recorded by Hank Williams as "Luke the Drifter." "Down, Down, Down" is associated with the great country singer Rose Maddox. Paul Warren's performance of "Durham's Bull" was a Flatt & Scruggs favorite, as was "Down the Road," first recorded by the group in the spring of 1949 in Cincinnati. Warren winds up the show with "Over There."