First Stage for Families

David Holt

PROGRAM

Songs and Stories of Appalachia

Cal Performances’ 2011–2012 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.
Every young man dreams of a life of adventure. In 1969, David Holt found his life’s journey in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains. With a passion to become an old-time banjo player, Mr. Holt traveled to remote mountain communities, like Kingdom Come, Kentucky, and Sodom Laurel, North Carolina, searching for the best traditional musicians. He found hundreds of old-time mountaineers with a wealth of folk music, stories and wisdom. There was banjoist Wade Mainer, ballad singer Dellie Norton, singing coal miner Nimrod Workman, and 123-year-old washboard player Susie Brunson. Mr. Holt learned to play not only banjos, but many unusual instruments, such as the mouth bow, the bottleneck slide guitar and even the paper bag.

For over three decades, Mr. Holt’s passion for traditional music and culture has fueled a successful performing and recording career. He has earned four Grammy Awards and performed and recorded with many of his mentors, including Doc Watson, Grandpa Jones, Bill Monroe, Earl Scruggs, Roy Acuff and Chet Atkins. Today he tours the country performing solo, with Doc Watson, and with his band, the Lightning Bolts.

Mr. Holt has hosted such popular television programs as the Nashville Network’s Fire on the Mountain and American Music Shop and was featured in the film O Brother Where Art Thou. He currently hosts PBS’s Great Scenic Railway Journeys, Folkways and Public Radio’s Riverwalk Jazz, and maintains a busy solo concert schedule. He lives in Asheville, North Carolina.