

"Guest Entertainer"



Dennis Stroughmatt



Honkytonk fiddler, Vocals

Growing up in southeastern Illinois, Dennis Stroughmatt's first memories of listening to music as a child were the sounds of Bob Wills, Benny Goodman, and Ray Price. His dad Jack Stroughmatt, who was a big western swing fan and great singer, would play all kinds of music on his old console stereo system, but more than anything the sound of Ray Price's Cherokee Cowboys booming through the speakers made Dennis want to sing and dance around the room. Some say he was born to this music and others joke that Ray Price was his vocal coach. That's a huge compliment but in many ways Dennis did learn to sing and understand music via Ray Price and The Cherokee Cowboys. Years passed, he picked up the fiddle, began playing French and Cajun music, became a nationally known musician, and the rest is history so to speak. But the desire to play the music of "The Cowboys" and especially the style of greats like Tommy Jackson and Buddy Spicher never left him.

Through a chance meeting while he was in college in the 1990s, Dennis was befriended and mentored by Western Swing legend Wade Ray and has spent several years working with former Cherokee Cowboy fiddler Buddy Spicher in Nashville TN to master the honkytonk and Western Swing sound he has always loved. This has led to appearances on 650-WSM as host of the "Ernest Tubb Midnite Jamboree" with The Cherokee Cowboys, performances with legendary artists like Tony Booth, Leona Williams and Claude Gray, and a new recording called "Talk to My Heart: A Tribute To the Cherokee Cowboys" which was recorded with several members of Ray Price's original band including Buddy Spicher, Pete Wade, Hargus "Pig" Robbins and special guest drummer, original Buckaroo Willie Cantu. His new CD can be heard on Sirius/XM Willie's Roadhouse and countless radio stations across the United States and Europe.

A shortlist of performances by Dennis Stroughmatt include The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, The Library of Congress, The Smithsonian Folklife Festival, The Midwest Folk Festival, The Las Vegas Convention Center, Garrison Keillor's Prairie Home Companion, The New York City Town Hall, and The Ernest Tubb Midnite Jamboree. In September of 2015, he was inducted in the National Oldtime Fiddlers Hall of Fame.



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