

BEN SCALES

“Scales entertains and charms in the vein of
John Prine and Loudon Wainwright III”

— *The Ledger, Lakeland FL*

Before moving to North Carolina in 2003, Ben Scales lived 10 years on the tropical island of Saipan, in the western Pacific Ocean, 10,000 miles from the Southeastern U.S., where he grew up. Through ten years of steady gigging throughout Micronesia and Hawaii, Ben's Americana roots rock style was influenced by the poly-ethnic rhythms of the island's diverse music scene. Ben's songwriting draws from these extraordinary voyages and ordinary life experience, as well.

Ben's songs range from touching ballads on the joys of parenthood to cowboy songs to rollicking country blues. His love songs and ballads – songs like “She Loves Me” and “After You Let Go” – have received airplay on dozens of stations, including **WNCW** in Spindale NC, **KPFA** in Berkeley CA, and **WMNF** in Tampa (where Ben performed live in the studio). “After You Let Go” has been a top 10 song on Hong Kong radio. Others have been Number 1 hits on internet radio, including his humor-based political anthem “Growing Marijuana In My Yard,” which has been downloaded over 250,000 times. His music has been featured in film and television in Asia, the western Pacific, and Canada.

For all of the international acclaim Ben's recordings have received, live performance is where he really shines. The enclosed DVD contains video of Ben performing live in November 2005. Since his move to Asheville, Ben has shared the stage and/or performed alongside: **Peggy Seeger**, four-time Grammy winner **David Holt** (best known for his work with **Doc Watson**) **David LaMotte**, **Mad Tea Party**, **Ménage**, **Kellin Watson**, **Joe Ebel & Annie Lalley**, as well as old-time musicians such as **John Herrman**, **Jason Krekel**, **Adam Tanner**, and **Riley Baugus** (best known for his work on the “Cold Mountain” soundtrack).

“Dangerously charming.”

— *J.C. Honeycutt, Charlotte (NC) Folk Society.*

Playing solo or with dobro player **Will Straughan**, Ben has charmed audiences all over the world with his engaging stage presence, rich powerful voice, percussive guitar chops, and sharp humor, often with a political edge. Since September 2004, Ben has enjoyed a regular gig performing for the guests at Asheville's 1900 Inn on Montford, during the Inn's social hour from 6-7pm. The Inn is a short walk from Ben's house, which allows him to be home in time to read bedtime stories to his children, a luxury most musicians don't have.

At Ben's concerts, there's always plenty of laughter, singing along, and perhaps, for the more sensitive among us, a tear. Ben loves to engage the audience directly to make sure that, first and foremost, everyone has FUN!

“Ben Scales is cheerful, inventive, productive, lively and good to look at.

One of Asheville's best songwriters.”

— *Peggy Seeger.*

P. O. BOX 7382
ASHEVILLE, NC 28802

www.benscales.com
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TEL.: (828) 225-4840
FAX: (253) 550-7878