

David Russell was born in the citrus ridge country of Florida, and lives in the Blueridge and FL when he's not on the road playing. He is currently involved in recording a new release CD of his compositions, and the support tour for the release in the summer of 2016. Along with completing this project, he's touring throughout the remainder of 2016, in between session work and working on an independent film score. Very exciting times, and his long time fans are anxious to hear the work that is the product of a life's work.

Born to a military family, David's ancestors came from France and Britain to Acadia/ Nova Scotia in the 1620's, emigrating to the American Colonies in the 1800's in New England having fought in the Revolution, down through VA and eventually to Florida. As a child, he listened to his grandfather play stage tunes from the 1890's and his father singing Acadian/French and Depression/Vaudeville era ditties. In FL he grew up a half mile from the Seaboard Coast Line's Orange Blossom railroad in the last days of fruit shipping by Railway Express and the rhythm of citrus farming. He began formal musical training at age 6, classical guitar with a Segovia School Master, performing his first recital at 9, a Villa Lobos piece. David turned to steel string guitar, with lessons from country/blues/jazz guitarist Roger Soule, after hearing Merle Travis and Chet Atkins on his mom's phonograph. Thus began a lifelong love and study of traditional bluegrass, country blues & mountain string music.

Slipping underage into local venues, he played in pickup bands from country/folk to blues, jazz and rock, with a first paid gig at 13. His influences at that time were Florida banjoist Paul Champion, the bluegrass fiddler Chubby Wise who he heard play his co-written classic, "Orange Blossom Special", and the legendary troubadour Gamble Rogers, who later became his mentor and friend. In 1970 he trekked to Nashville & made a musical discovery which changed his life- a small show of Norman Blake, Tut Taylor and John Hartford (the soon-to-be Dobrolic Plectral Society & future Aereoplain Band) at the Old Time Picking Parlor and GTR store. He listened to Norman pick solo in a little bar for three nights in a row. David picked in two of the legendary "watering holes" in Nashville, trying his hands at this great music, and an unforgettable introduction to Bill Monroe at an after hours set-- who kindly encouraged him, as he had done for so many- "to keep at it, son". Learning every tune on Norman's first solo album, he performs those songs to this day, honoring Norman's style of playing. His shows include many different styles- flatpicking, fingerstyle, Travis picking, Celtic cross tunings and slide. He left school to take his music on the road in the late 70's, and took several breaks along the way for commitments to his family financial needs and business. This musical and life experience has given David a unique perspective and diverse well of artistic foundation to draw on in his playing and performing.

He has appeared or toured with: **Doc & Merle Watson, Norman & Nancy Blake, Lester Flatt & the Nashville Grass (w/ Marty Stuart), Earl Scruggs, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, John McEuen, John Hartford , Vassar Clements, Tut Taylor, Steve Martin, John Hammond, Gamble Rogers, Jimmy Buffett, Steve Goodman, Stephen Wade, Mickey Clark, Sonny Terry & Brownie McGhee, Jack Williams and Will McLean (the Poet Laureate of Florida)** and a host of other fine musicians. He was fortunate to trade a few songs with Mac MacAnally one short afternoon in Muscle Shoals- and played many of Mac's tunes from his first 3 albums, inspired by his writing.

David's arrangement work includes the widely acknowledged, definitive version of "The Kennesaw Line" ,Don Oja-Dunaway's classic War Between the States ballad, and Lowell George's "Face of Appalachia" ,which rivet audiences with Scots-Irish memory. A gifted prolific songwriter, between road dates David does session work, advertising jingles, film music scores and on call sideman jobs for touring groups. He's traveled all over the country, holding fast to his family and musical roots, entertaining audiences with high energy delivery and powerful stage presence.

The release of David's new CD will create a demand of interest, from his many long time fans. A long time coming and not to be missed.