

## FIDDLE AND BOW IN HAND, BLAINE SPROUSE RETURNS TO MUSIC

"If You're Gonna Play In Texas (You Gotta Have a Fiddle in the Band)" proclaims Alabama's 1984 hit song. So who did the country music supergroup tap to fiddle that memorable chart topper? Blaine Sprouse.

With a much-anticipated return to the stage, Blaine's heart is answering the fiddler's call. As he stated in a *Frets Magazine* profile, "Music is my life. I just love to play."

Mark your calendar! March 26 begins the Blaine Sprouse Spring 2011 Tour through several states, with an exciting variety of concerts, workshops and festivals on the menu.

A West Virginia native, Sprouse is a veteran of such legendary groups as Charlie Louvin, Jim & Jesse and the Virginia Boys, and the Osborne Brothers. In addition, he twice donned a Blue Grass Boy hat to fiddle for Bill Monroe and later wore a Johnson Mountain Boys hat for a tour of Russia. Sprouse quickly garnered a stellar reputation as a Kenny Baker protégé and became an in-demand session player on projects that spanned bluegrass, old-time, country and folk genres.

With banjo innovator Butch Robins, Sprouse co-founded The Bluegrass Band, a groundbreaking group that eventually spun off the Nashville Bluegrass Band. And while not a member, he did play fiddle on that group's first recording. Among the younger turks of acoustic music, The Dreadful Snakes, The Sidemen, Nashville Jug Band and The Cluster Pluckers all lay claim to Sprouse's fiddling as well.

His early career took him near and far, from the *Grand Ole Opry* to *Austin City Limits*, from Africa to Japan. Sprouse stepped away to fulfill a lifelong dream to finish his schooling--which he suspended just shy of high school graduation when he joined Jimmy Martin's Sunny Mountain Boys--and to attend law school.

As 2011 unfolded, it became clear to Blaine that music was his passion and intended calling. Since mid-February, he has been performing locally in his current home state of California, rapidly gaining renewed exposure and accolades. He connected with renowned musician Peter Feldmann and has been filling in as one of Peter's Very Lonesome Boys. In addition, as a trio he has teamed up with Peter and famed guitarist/songwriter Rick Cunha, perhaps best remembered for his "Yo-Yo Man" performed by the Smothers Brothers.

An exciting new touring project is in the works, with anticipated launch by summer's end. Along with this, Sprouse is writing and gathering material to return to the recording studio.

Blaine Sprouse is a professional member of the American Association of Musicians, the Nashville Association of Musicians and the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

To access Blaine's complete tour schedule, full bio, music samples and more, visit <http://blainesprousemusic.com>.