

From the band...

Welcome to Mountain Tracks 5. This edition is different from its predecessors in a few key ways. This is the first in our live series to be mixed by our very own Hall of Fame engineer and General Manager of the Meat Sauce fantasy football team, Ben Hines.

Ben was really excited about getting his hands on these tracks and, in fact, he took the lead in selecting which tracks would make the final cut; and in a way that makes sense. The band members are so critical of what we do, that we can very easily overlook the more important elements of what makes a performance great. These are usually the intangibles that only someone removed from the direct "note-making" experience can identify: the energy of a track - the energy of the crowd at any given time. Hines is always right in the middle of things. His understanding of the "sound" of a Yonder show proved to be really valuable when making these discs.

Of course, we ended up with a surplus of material which had to be thinned; and this is where the second difference appears. We consider Mountain Tracks 3 to be our most complete release to-date. It was taken from one event and as a result has a flow that is more organic. We remembered that and one disc of this release is a complete set from a show in 2007. Our experience during that show in Columbus was really positive and this disc helps us remember that night. For us, the best parts aren't necessarily the musical moments, but rather the banter in between songs. We were having such a great time that night; it's fun for us to hear the energy in our voices.

We also knew that we had a number of songs that, for whatever reason, hadn't made it onto studio discs. They exist out there thanks to the Tapers, but not perhaps in the quality that you can achieve when working with multitrack recordings. So we tried to "simulate" a live show by culling material from across multiple years. This has been a project that we've wanted to do for a long time now and the first disc of this release is the result. Ben Kaufmann chose the material and sequenced it all; the material ranges in date from 2004-2007. Ben did his best to sequence the material in such a way that would recreate the flow of a show. So, essentially he created a set that begins in one year, segues to three years later, jumps back two years and finishes in 2007. We also had to get creative with the placement of dialogue. Perhaps our favorite moment in the whole release is the very beginning of the first disc which starts with a piece of dialogue from Dave Johnston. There is a wonderful juxtaposition between what he says and the music that begins a second later. And this is something you only get to achieve with time in a studio.

We hope you enjoy this "Through-The-Years" set of music.

-Yonder

Yonder Mountain String Band:

Dave Johnston - banjo Adam Aijala - guitar Jeff Austin - mandolin Ben Kaufmann - bass

YMSB would like to thank:

Ben Hines, Adam Beyrer and Plush Studios, Kevin Gregory, Chris Tetzeli, Ann Kingston and Red Light Management, Aaron Pinkus and Paradigm, Gregg Friedman, David Glasser and Airshow Mastering, Brian Langellers, Bobby Ray, Colin Peterson, Robyn Mascolino, Ben Coe, Ryan Kingsbury, Casey Verbeck, Brandon Mann, Penny Zemp, Skye McDonald, Craig Ferguson and Planet Bluegrass, Scott Arbough and KBCO, Chuck Morris and Don Strausburg, Jason Zink, and most importantly all the Kinfolk, Street Team, and fans who come out and support what we do.



- Disc 1 Recorded LIVE on the 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 Winter, Spring, and Summer Tours by Ben Hines
- Disc 2 Recorded LIVE on 7/21/07 at Lifestyles Community Pavilion in Columbus, OH by Ben Hines
- Mixed by Ben Hines and Engineered by Adam Beyrer at Plush Studios
- Mastered by David Glasser at Airshow Mastering
- CD layout by Brian Langellers • Front cover typography by Anthem Branding www.anthembranding.com
- CD 1 artwork by Methane Studios www.methanestudios.com
- Back cover and CD 2 artwork by FarmBarn Art Co. www.thefarmbarn.com
- Cover Photo by Bill Ball • Inside Photo by Jeff Muller www.jeffmullerphotography.com
- Management: Red Light Management • Chris Tetzeli
- Business Management: GJF Management • Gregg Friedman
- Booking: Paradigm • www.paradigmagency.com
- Merchandising: Artifact Concepts • orders@artifactconcepts.com

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