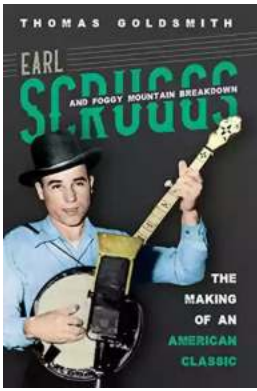


Earl Scruggs And Foggy Mountain Breakdown - The Legendary Bluegrass Masters



When it comes to bluegrass music, one name that stands out among the rest is Earl Scruggs. Known for his innovative and virtuosic banjo playing, Scruggs revolutionized the genre and became a living legend. One of his most influential and iconic compositions is the timeless classic "Foggy Mountain Breakdown."

Earl Scruggs was born in North Carolina on January 6, 1924. He grew up in a musical family, learning to play the banjo at a young age. His unique three-finger style of banjo picking, known as "Scruggs style," combined elements of traditional picking with syncopated rolls. This technique gave the banjo a driving, rhythmic sound that became synonymous with bluegrass music.



Earl Scruggs and Foggy Mountain Breakdown: The Making of an American Classic (Music in American Life) by Thomas Goldsmith(Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1934 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 202 pages



In the late 1940s, Earl Scruggs joined forces with guitarist Lester Flatt to form the bluegrass band The Foggy Mountain Boys. Together, they took the bluegrass world by storm and introduced a new level of technicality and precision to the genre. Their collaboration resulted in numerous hits and established them as one of the most influential acts in bluegrass history.

It was in 1949 that Earl Scruggs composed "Foggy Mountain Breakdown." This instrumental piece showcases his incredible dexterity and innovative banjo techniques. The song weaves together fast-paced picking, melodic passages, and intricate improvisation to create a truly mesmerizing experience.

"Foggy Mountain Breakdown" gained widespread recognition when it was featured in the 1967 film "Bonnie and Clyde." The song perfectly captures the energy and excitement of a train traveling through the Appalachian mountains, with its fast-paced banjo rolls mimicking the rhythm of a locomotive. Its inclusion in the film solidified Scruggs' status as a virtuosic banjo player and introduced bluegrass music to a wider audience.

The impact of "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" cannot be overstated. It has become a bluegrass standard and is often considered the quintessential banjo tune. Countless musicians have been inspired by Scruggs' composition and have attempted to replicate his iconic banjo playing. The song continues to be performed and enjoyed today, ensuring Earl Scruggs' lasting legacy in the world of bluegrass.

Earl Scruggs' contributions to bluegrass extended far beyond "Foggy Mountain Breakdown." His innovative playing style and musical collaborations helped shape the genre into what it is today. He received numerous awards and accolades throughout his career, including multiple Grammy Awards and induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Sadly, Earl Scruggs passed away on March 28, 2012, at the age of 88. However, his impact on bluegrass music is undeniable, and his influence can still be felt in the playing of banjoists all over the world.

, Earl Scruggs and "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" are icons of bluegrass music. Scruggs' innovative banjo techniques and his collaboration with Lester Flatt paved the way for countless musicians and established bluegrass as a respected genre. "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" remains a beloved and influential piece of music, showcasing Scruggs' incredible talent and solidifying his status as a bluegrass legend.

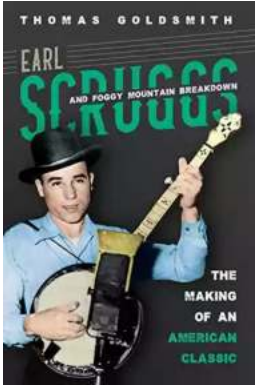
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Recorded in 1949, "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" changed the face of American music. Earl Scruggs's instrumental essentially transformed the folk culture that came before it while helping to energize bluegrass's entry into the mainstream in the 1960s. The song has become a gateway to bluegrass for musicians and fans alike as well as a happily inescapable track in film and television. Thomas Goldsmith explores the origins and influence of "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" against the backdrop of Scruggs's legendary career. Interviews with Scruggs, his wife Louise, disciple Bela Fleck, and sidemen like Curly Seckler, Mac Wiseman, and Jerry Douglas shed light on topics like Scruggs's musical evolution and his working relationship with Bill Monroe. As Goldsmith shows, the captivating sound of "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" helped bring back the banjo from obscurity and distinguished the low-key Scruggs as a principal figure in American acoustic music. Passionate and long overdue, Earl Scruggs and Foggy Mountain Breakdown takes readers on an ear-opening journey into two minutes and forty-three seconds of heaven.



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