

The Music

Take a big helping of traditional cowboy music, stir in a little country honky-tonk and western swing, some southern blues and rockabilly, a bit of Louisiana Cajun, a taste of the high lonesome, add a pinch of Mexican Norteno Accordion, and a spoonful of Hawaiian slack-key guitar and you're getting close to the tasty gumbo of styles you'll hear in the music of Michael Hurwitz.

Initially Mike was influenced by the country and cowboy music he heard growing up in rural Wyoming, His Mother turned him on to the Southern country blues and jazz from her Mississippi home. Then years on the road, picking with anyone and everyone, and he absorbed many of the regional styles played in the different parts of the country that he traveled.

Michael plays his vintage Gibsons, Martins and Nationals with notable skill and innovation in a number of classic guitar styles: From bluesy Delta slide and Piedmont fingerstyle, to country Travis picking and flat picking, Hawaiian slack key and some Mexican sounding things on the Bandurria, a small 12 string lute-like instrument from Spain. He uses alternate tunings and chord voicings not commonly heard in traditional music. He plays a twangy Telecaster like the Bakersfield country pickers, jazzy Western Swing, Memphis rockabilly, and electric blues straight out of Chicago.

He sings in a deep rich baritone, with a relaxed, blues influenced country style that is all his own. Mike is a songwriter of uncommon ability. He can be lowdown and lonesome or funny and irreverent, but always the songs come through as well crafted, honest, and interesting, Michael's long time band "the Aimless Drifters" share his unique vision of country-blues and cowboy music. There's pedal steel, piano, accordion, mandolin, fiddle, harp, bass and drums. As Sing Out! stated " Hurwitz sings in a warm, friendly baritone voice and plays guitar in a fluid finger picking style. His backup band are a very tasteful lot and are anything but aimless or drifting as they play wonderfully in traditional blues, folk, country and western swing styles."